Looking ahead

By Dr Jan Henke, director of ISCC

In 2020, three topics will dominate ISCC activities: Renewable Energy Directive (REDII) implementation and re-recognition of ISCC by the European Commission; strengthening the ISCC scheme and transparent and fully traceable supply chains and verified greenhouse gas (GHG) values; and new market developments.

REDII, even if not yet implemented by Member States and with more delegated acts and guidance to come, casts its shadow ahead. In 2020, ISCC will further analyse the new topics under REDII, including the certification of low indirect land use change (ILUC) biofuels, Renewable Fuels of Non-Biological Origin and Recycled Carbon Fuels, as well as the increased coverage of solid biomass, biogas and biomethane. The aim is to develop practical and secure certification options in all areas and to be well-prepared for the upcoming re-recognition in 2021.

ISCC will focus on strengthening its certification scheme and increasing its integrity. This will go hand-in-hand with even higher transparency and traceability in supply chains. The ISCC Technical Stakeholder Committee on Waste, Residues and Advanced Low Carbon Fuels working group has already developed concrete measures for waste and residue-based biofuel supply chains. For example, ISCC has implemented additional surveillance audits and increased transparency measures, and is conducting a pilot project on traceability databases. Apps and automated monitoring systems have also been developed to integrate smallholders into certified supply chains. These approaches will be scaled up this year and can potentially be used for low-ILUC certification.

In 2020, ISCC will concentrate on new market developments, including the development of ISCC for sustainable aviation fuels under REDII and the CORSIA framework. We will also work on further establishing ISCC to support the circular economy and bioeconomy. This is already reflected by a more than 70% growth of ISCC PLUS certificates in 2019, with many further certification projects in the pipeline. The European Green Deal, announced in December 2019, will also lead to new initiatives.

The multi-stakeholder dialogue will continue to intensify and support these activities. The ISCC Association has grown to 132 members, with major stakeholder events taking place this year.

Despite regulatory changes and new market developments, the focus of ISCC in 2020 remains unchanged: to offer a high-level and secure sustainability and GHG certification system for existing and future markets under REDII and other regulatory frameworks, and to support the development of a sustainable bioeconomy and circular economy.

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