

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

**Green Party Member of the European Parliament
for the South East of England**

Commissioner Stavros Dimas
Commissioner for The Environment
European Commission
Rue de la Loi, 200
Bruxelles 1049

8th December 2006

Dear Commissioner Dimas,

I am writing to draw your attention to the urgent need to revise the Bio-fuels Directive, and the necessity of developing a system of safeguards for sustainable biofuels.

The Commission states that it is committed to ensuring that the EU plays a genuine role in the fight against climate change, and sees the bio-fuels directive as an important element of the process.

However, the well-documented environmental risks of the unconditional promotion of bio-fuels, such as the conversion of rainforests into palm oil plantations, are considerable, and threaten to undermine the objectives of EU bio-fuel and sustainable development policy. Moreover, the new interest in the agricultural production of bio-fuels leaves open the possibility of GM oilseed rape and other GM seeds being imported into European Countries for the purpose of processing into bio-fuels and consequently contaminating the food chain.

Accordingly, I urge the Commission to

- Ban all biofuel imports that are linked to the loss of highly prized habitats or extensive deforestation.
- Impose a moratorium on the EU Biofuel Directive whilst establishing a working group to revise the directive.
- Work with other major market nations for biofuels to regulate the international trade in biofuel commodities.

Without the realisation of such measures, biofuels will not meet their potential, and will instead undermine the very objective sought by their use in the first place.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Caroline Lucas MEP