

Brussels, 25. 01. 2007  
A(06)2872 - D(07)62

Dear Dr Lucas,

Thank you for your letter of 8th December 2006.

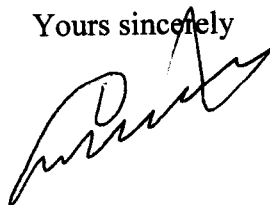
I share your view about the possible environmental risks that deforestation, and other non-sustainable uses of bio-mass for bio-fuels production could create. This was recognized by the Biomass Action Plan (COM (2005) 628) and the Communication "An EU Strategy for Biofuels" (COM (2006) 34 Final).

If more ambitious objectives for bio-fuels are adopted, proper safeguards will indeed be needed to protect tropical forests and other sensitive areas, as well as measures on imports of biomass. These issues were assessed in the Bio-fuels Progress Report, which was part of the EU Strategic Energy Review adopted on 10th January 2007.

In the Strategic Energy Review, the Commission proposed a 10% target for bio-fuels by 2020. The main objectives were to reduce the EU's energy dependence on fossil fuels and to encourage the move to a low carbon economy. At the same time, the Commission committed itself to promoting sustainable use of bio-fuels. To achieve this, the EU will need to engage third countries and their producers. Poor-performing bio-fuels should be discouraged, while the use of bio-fuels with good environmental performance should be encouraged. The Commission intends to bring forward a proposal to implement this during 2007.

I hope you will find this information useful.

Yours sincerely



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