

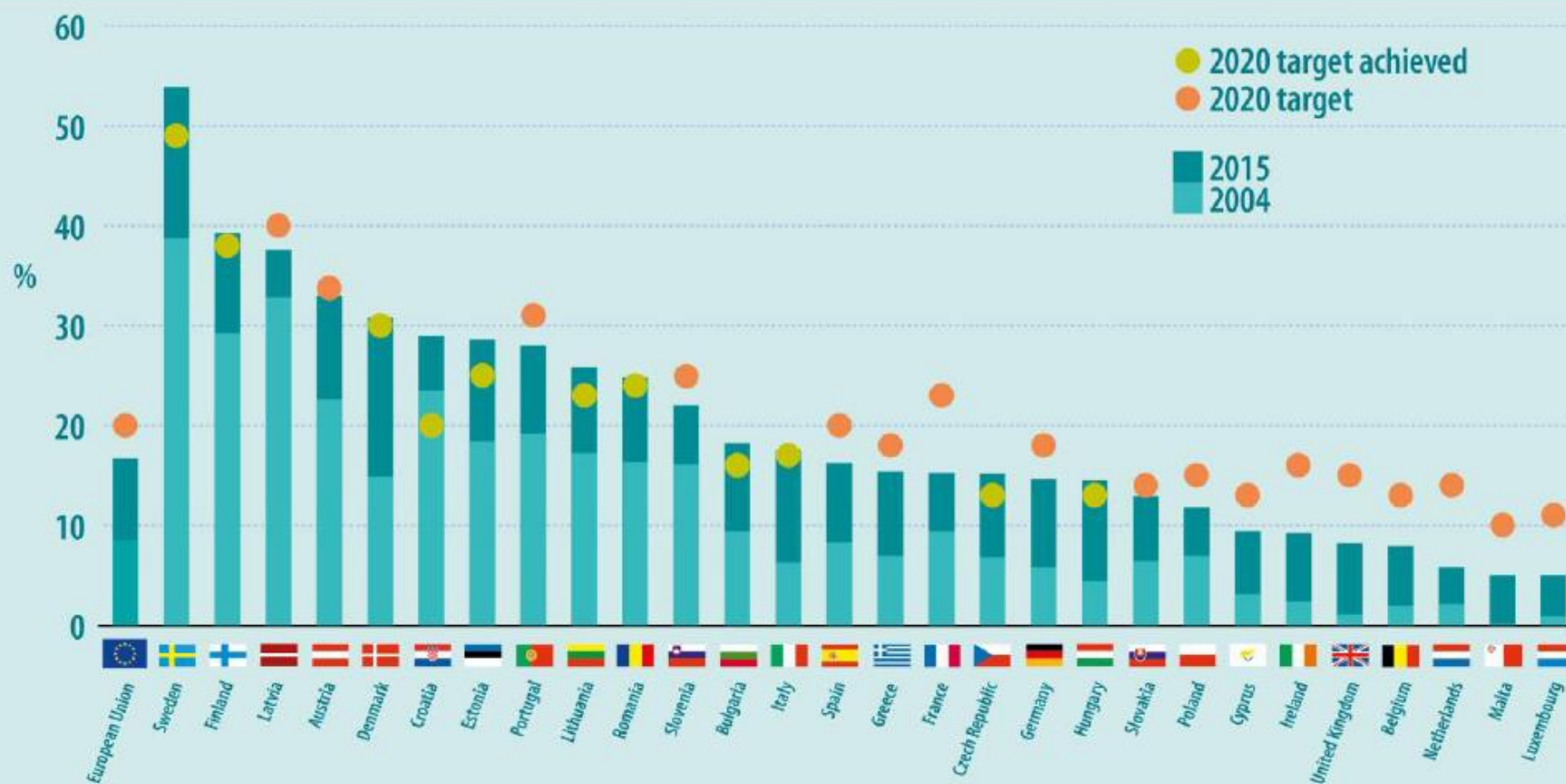


EU sustainability framework for bioenergy

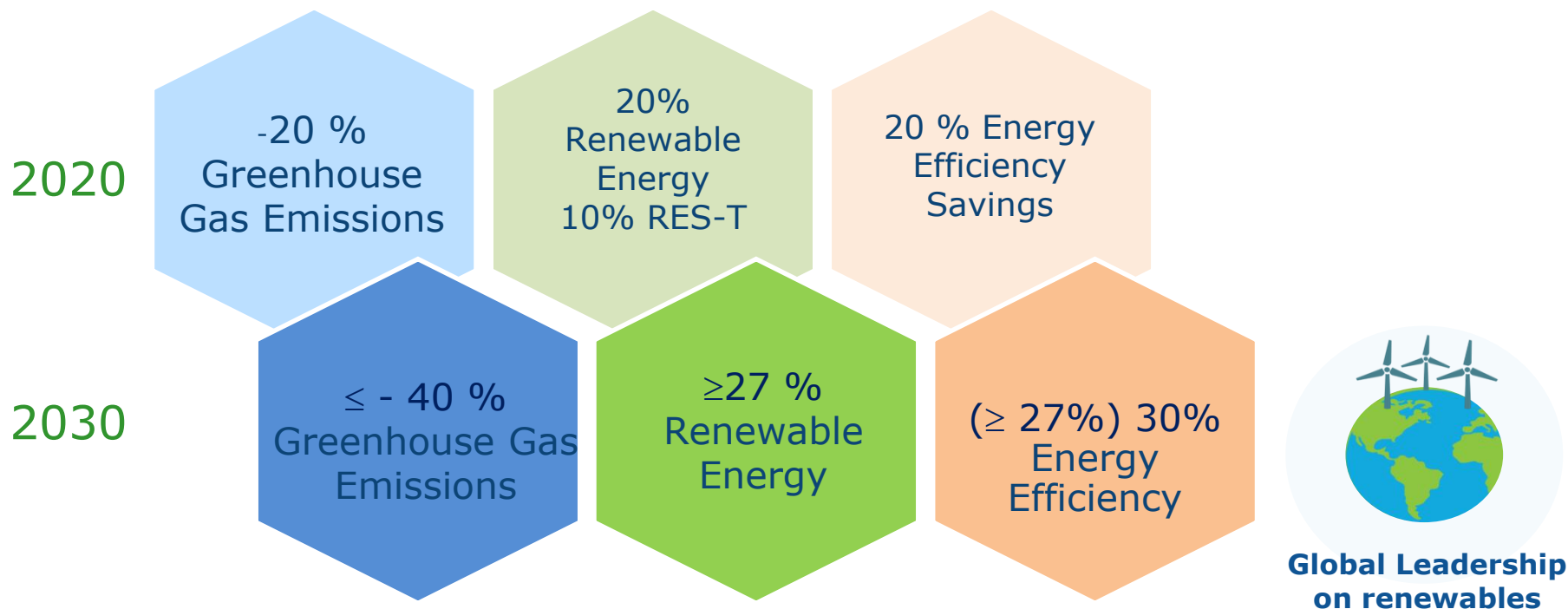
Giulio Volpi, DG Energy
European Commission

Share of energy from renewable sources in the EU Member States

(in % of gross final energy consumption)



EU CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICY FRAMEWORK



HOW DO WE GET THERE?

The right regulatory framework for post – 2020



**Energy Union
Governance**



Energy Efficiency
(Energy Efficiency
Directive, Energy
Performance of
Buildings Directive)



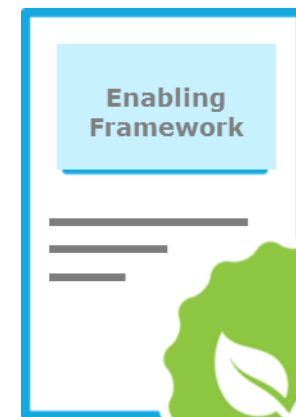
Renewables
(Revised Renewable
Energy Directive)



**New Electricity
Market Design**
(including Risk
Preparedness)



**Energy prices
and costs
report**

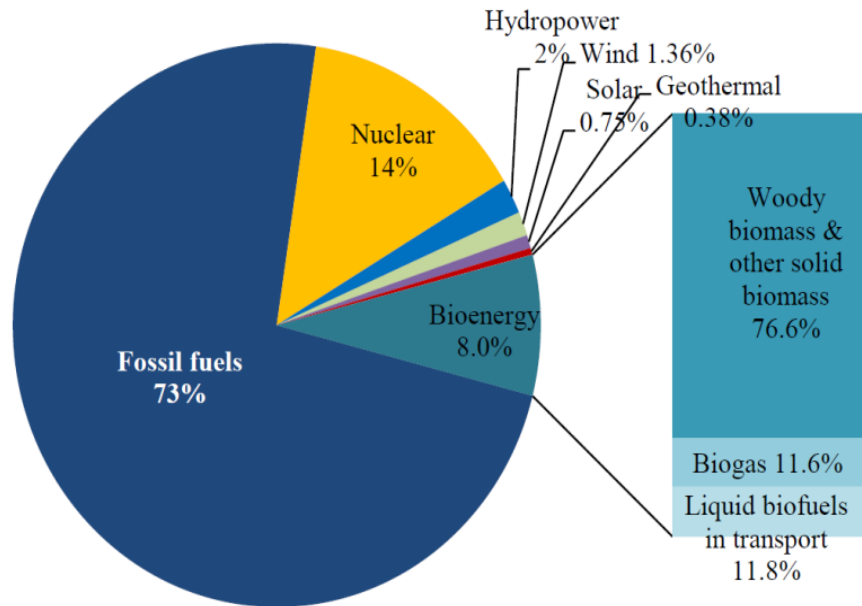


HOW DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

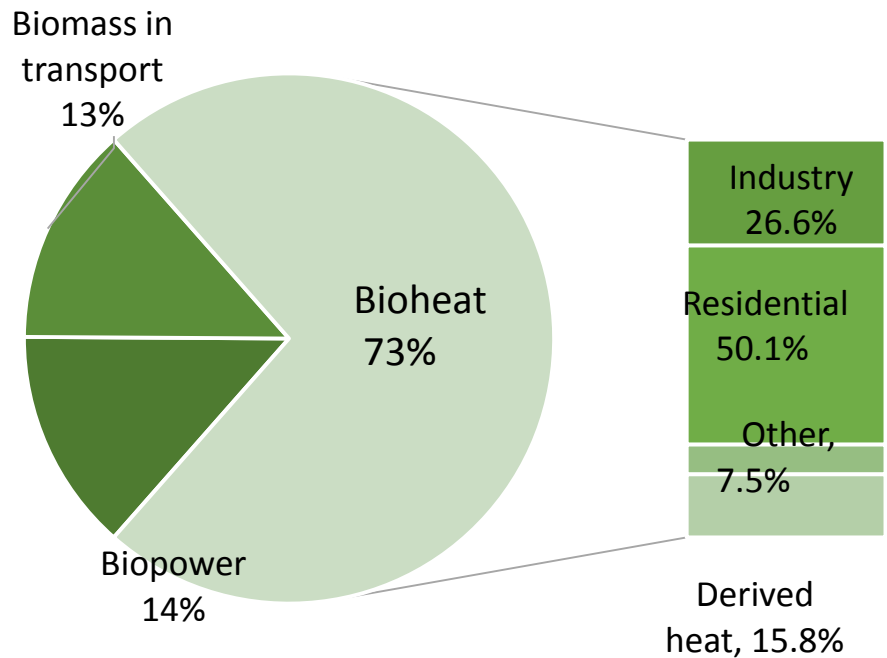


Bioenergy is the main EU renewable energy ...

**Gross inland energy consumption
(2014 , %)**

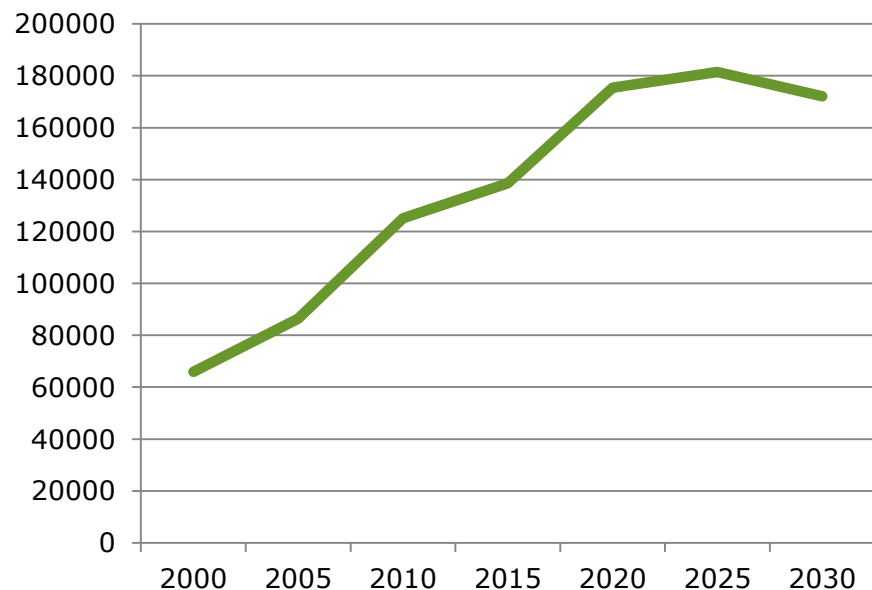


**Gross final bioenergy consumption
(2014 , %)**

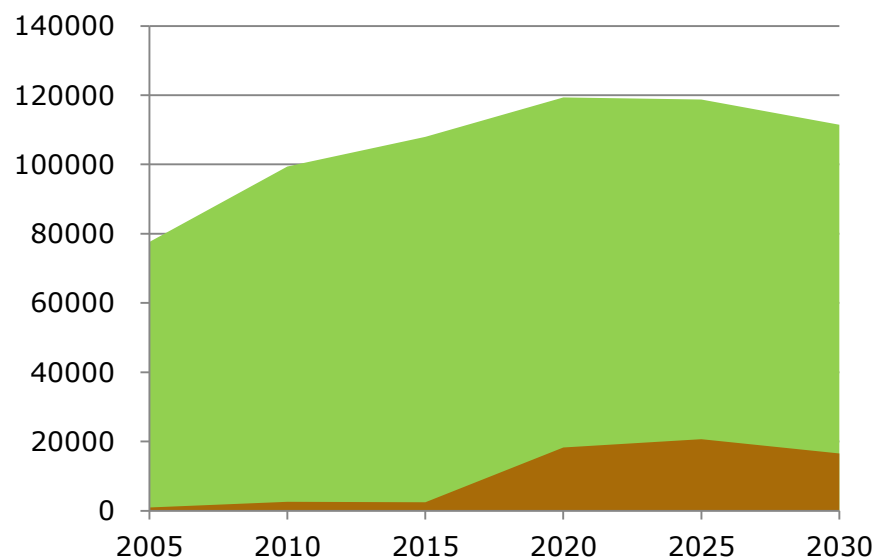


...And will continue to play a key role in the future

**EU Bioenergy Consumption
(ktoe, 2005-2030)**



**Solid biomass imports
(ktoe, 2005-2030)**



■ EUCO30 Bioenergy Production Solid ktoe

■ Biomass Solid Imports ktoe

Source: PRIMES EUCO scenarios

Bioenergy: benefits vs risks

Benefits

Sizeable contribution to the RES targets

Energy security: mostly domestically sourced and affordable for consumers

Storable renewable energy, grid balancing

Climate benefits compared to fossil fuels

Growth and jobs, in particular in rural areas

Risks

Climate performance of certain biofuels and forest biomass pathways

ILUC impacts of biofuels from food and feed

Other environmental impacts: biodiversity, air quality, soil

Possible competition with other biomass using sectors

Low efficiency of biomass electricity conversion

EU sustainability criteria for biofuels (2009)

1. Biofuels cannot come from land:

- With high carbon stock (peatland etc.)
- High biodiversity (primary forest etc.)

2. Biofuels need to save at least 35% compared to fossil fuels, increasing to 50% in 2018



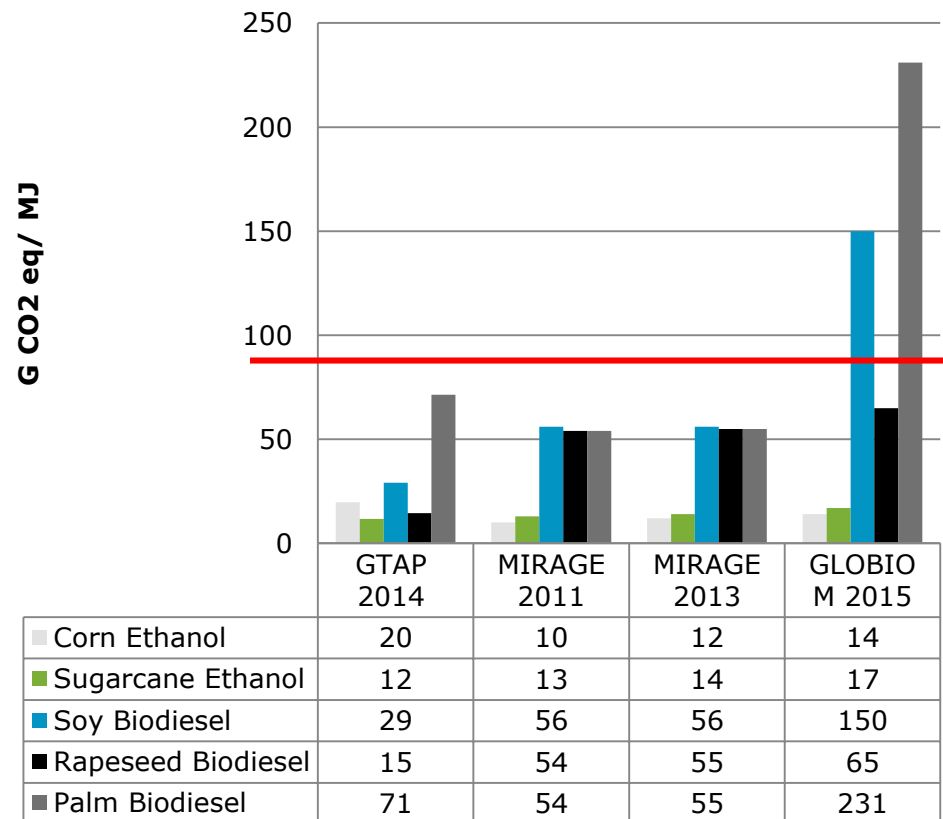
But, indirect impacts not taken into account

Addressing ILUC emissions of biofuels (2015)

2015 amendments to RES Directive (ILUC)

- *7% cap on the role of biofuels from food and feed towards 10% RES-T target*
- *Higher GHG saving requirement: 70%*
- *Promotion of advanced biofuels (0.5% indicative target in Member States)*

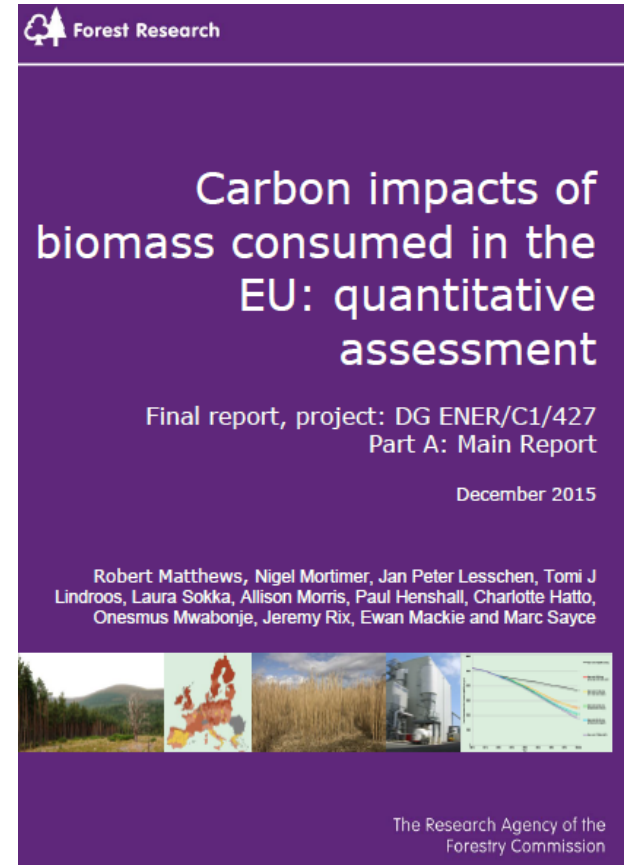
ILUC emissions of 1G biofuels (gCO₂eq/ MJ)



Addressing biogenic carbon emissions

Key findings:

- *Majority of the forest bioenergy currently in EU can be considered to deliver GHG benefits even when taking into account biogenic emissions.*
- *Forest bioenergy impact in future strategies for GHG emissions reduction depends on the scale of demand and consumption.*
- *Forest management strategies (past, present and future) largely define forest bioenergy GHG performance.*



Revised EU bioenergy sustainability framework post-2020

- ✓ Cover all **biomass energy uses (biofuel, heat and power)**
- ✓ Avoid **deforestation**, forest **degradation**, and negative impacts on **biodiversity and carbon stocks**
- ✓ Address **ILUC concerns**
- ✓ Deliver **optimal greenhouse gas (GHG) savings** compared to fossil fuels
- ✓ Promote **efficient conversion into electricity**, in order to promote resource efficiency and avoid market distortions
- ✓ Ensure proportionality and cost-effectiveness by applying a **risk-based approach** for forest biomass and **de minimis thresholds** for bioheat and power plants

Overview of EU bioenergy sustainability criteria (2016 legislative proposal)

Land criteria: feedstock based

1a. AGRI BIOMASS

No go areas:

- ✓ with high carbon stocks and
- ✓ high biodiversity values

1b. FOREST BIOMASS (risk based)

Minimum requirement for:

- ✓ Forest regeneration
- ✓ Biodiversity and soil protection
- ✓ Long term productivity
- ✓ LULUCF accounting

Performance criteria End-use based

2. GHG SAVINGS CRITERIA

- 70% for new biofuels/biogas for transport (all plants)
- 80% (85% in 2026) for biomass and biogas in heat and power (only for large plants with fuel capacity equal/above 20 MW)

3. CHP REQUIREMENT for bioelectricity

- Applies to new bioelectricity plants (equal/above 20 MW); 3-year transition period after adoption of Directive + exceptions for national risks of security of electricity supply

4. AIR QUALITY standards:

- Households biomass boiler (EU Ecodesign Regulation)
- Mid-size and large scale plants (EU Air quality Directives)

VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE - SUMMARY

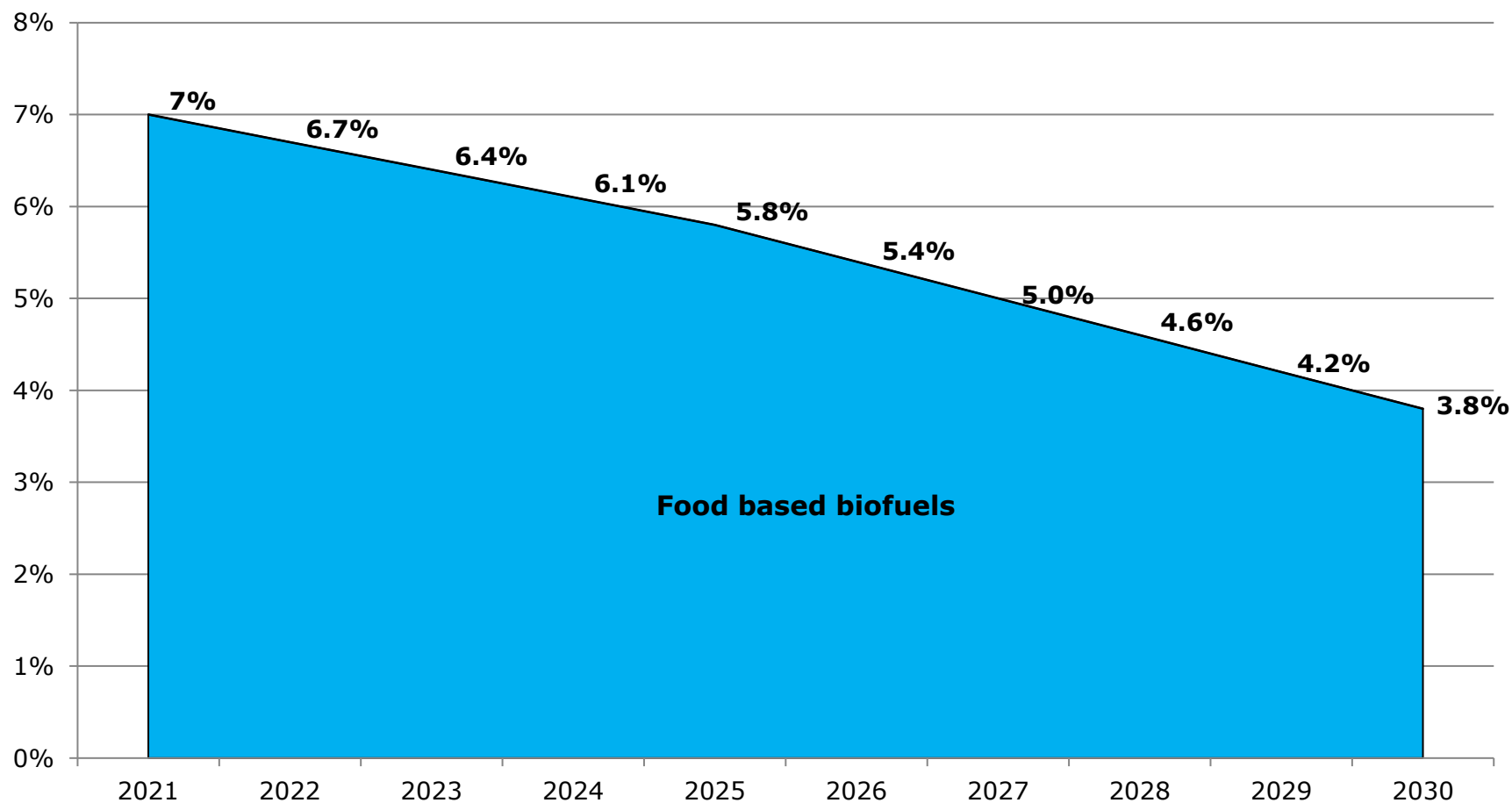
*Member States must require **Economic Operators** to:*

- *Use a **mass balance system** when reporting on sustainable bioenergy*
- *Arrange for an **independent audit** of the information they report*

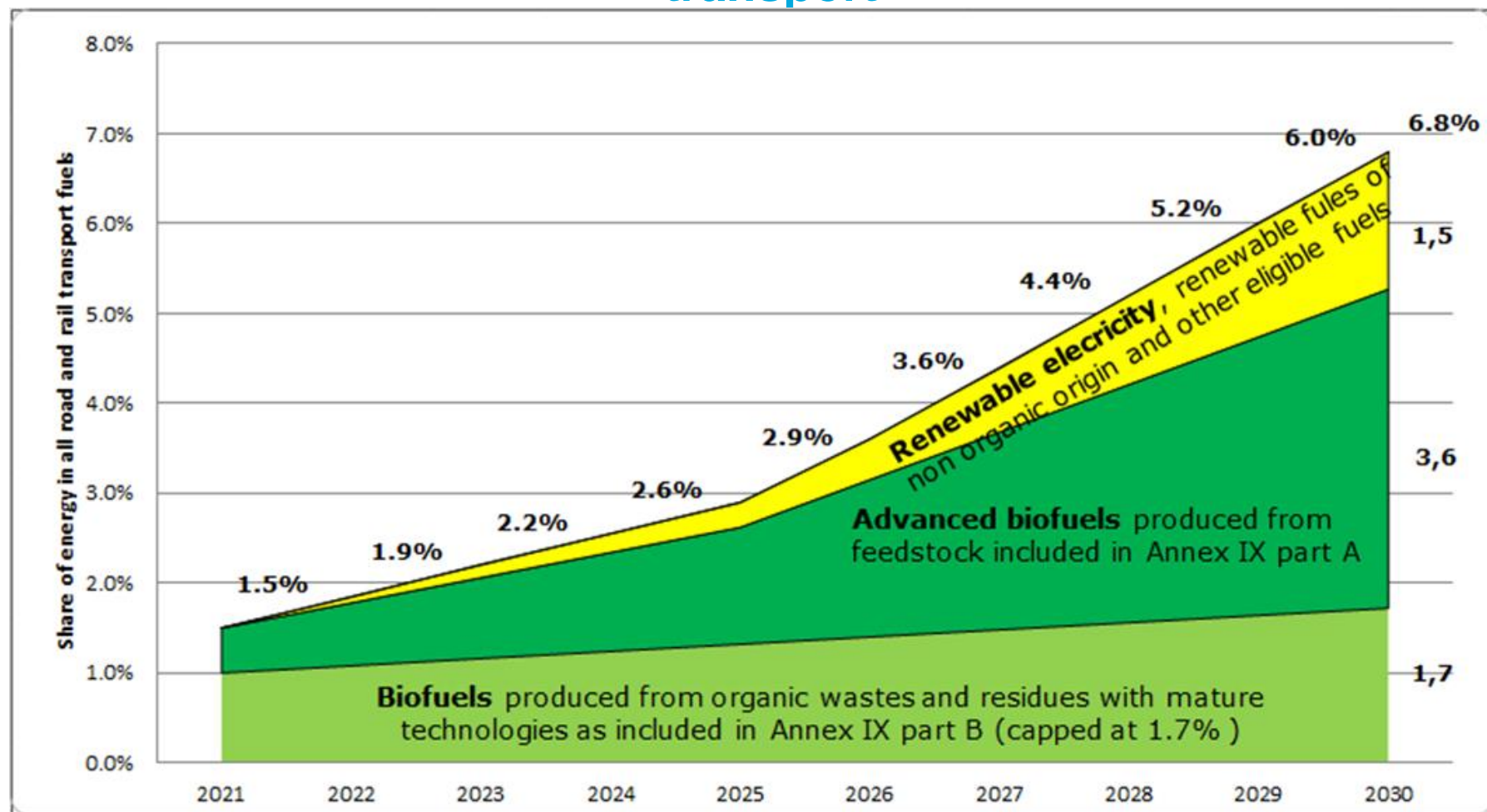
Economic operators can demonstrate compliance with the EU sustainability criteria through:

- ***National schemes**, established by Member States, covering domestic production and use of biomass*
- ***International verification schemes**, recognized by the European Commission, covering biomass from all EU countries and third countries*

Phasing down conventional crop based biofuels...



...Promoting advanced renewable/low-carbon fuels in transport





THANK YOU!

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@Energy4Europe
#CleanEnergyEU



Sustainability criteria (1)
AGRICULTURE BIOMASS
(art 26.2-26.4)

- Based on **land criteria** from the current Renewable Energy Directive (art. 17) but
- **Peatland:** stricter protection (easier to verify)
- Highly biodiverse **grassland:** to be identified by competent authorities, minimum size (1 hectare)
- **Cross compliance:** removed requirement (already dealt with under the CAP)

Sustainability criteria (2)

FOREST BIOMASS - BIODIVERSITY

(art 26.5)

Step A): Operators demonstrate that biomass originates from a **country** that has legislation place which ensures :

- i. **Legality** of wood harvesting
- ii. Forest **regeneration**
- iii. Protection of **biodiversity** rich areas
- iv. Minimization of harvesting impacts on **soil and biodiversity**
- v. Harvesting not exceeding **long-term production capacity**

Step B): if type A) evidence not available, operators demonstrate sustainability compliance at **forest holding level**

Review in 2023

Sustainability criteria (3)

FOREST BIOMASS – CARBON STOCKS

(art 26.5)

Step A). *Operators demonstrate that biomass originates from a **country** that:*

- i. is a Party to, and has ratified the Paris agreement*
- ii. has submitted a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC, covering emissions and removals from agriculture, forestry and land use*
- iii. has a national system in place for reporting GHG emissions and removals from land use*

Step B). *If type A) evidence not available, operators demonstrate that carbon stock and sink levels in forest are maintained at **the forest holding level***

Review in 2023

End-use performance criteria (1)

GHG EMISSION SAVINGS

(art 26.7 – 28, annex V and VI)

Biofuels/bioliquids

- *at least 50% (operation before October 2015)*
- *60% (operation after October 2015)*
- *70% (operation after January 2021)*

Biomethane for transport: 70%

Biomass in heat and power

- *at least 80% (operation after 1 January 2021)*
- *85% for those starting operation after 1 January 2026*

Updated GHG calculation methodology and default values

End-use performance criteria (2)

CHP REQUIREMENT FOR BIOMASS ELECTRICITY

(art 26.8)

- *Electricity from biomass must be produced in **highly efficient CHP***
 - *to be accounted towards the EU RES target and be eligible for financial support*
 - *applicable to large scale installations (equal or above 20 MW) starting operations after 3 years from the date of adoption of the directive*
- ***Possible exception** for security of electricity supply risks*

VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

(Art 27)

Mass balance system:

- *Clarified rules for biomethane injected into the gas grid*
- *Rules for mixing of fuels with differing energy content (co-digestion)*

Voluntary schemes :

- *Commission can set out implementing rules for voluntary schemes*
- *Allow Member States to control work of certification bodies*
- *Dropped provision regarding international agreements*

SCOPE OF EU SUSTAINABILITY AND GHG SAVING CRITERIA

(art 26.1, recital 77)

Biofuels and bioliquids: all producers

Electricity and heating from biomass: installations with a fuel capacity equal or above to 20 MW

Members States may apply lower thresholds

HARMONIZATION

Biofuels and bioliquids: full EU harmonization

Biomass fuels (solid and gaseous biomass): partial harmonization, MS can place additional requirements