Wood energy: the paper industry perspective

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Wood energy in the pulp and paper sector

- 49% wood-based energy in 2001 ➔ 55% in 2010
- 20% of the biomass-based energy production in the EU
- Valorising residues (bark, branches …) and by-products (black liquor)
- In efficient co-generation installations (heat and power)
- Surpluses of power are put on the grid
- Ongoing R&D to explore ways to improve the efficiency (e.g. Lignoboost, second generation biofuels, black liquor gaseification, etc.)
Wood energy challenges

TODAY

- Availability (Mobilisation, imports)
- Price
- Support policies (distorted competition)

EMERGING

- Carbon benefits (ILUC, carbon debt)
- Biomass sustainability
- Long term (EU RE Strategy)
Sustainability requirements as a response?

- Because the pulp and paper industry is committed to sustainability and sustainable forest management.
- Because other policies (e.g. Green Public Procurement) require traditional products to fulfil sustainability requirements.
- Because we want woody biomass to be treated the same way as wood raw material, to ensure a level playing field.
- Because public subsidies and support schemes shouldn’t reward unsustainable practices.
- Because « green » energy wouldn’t be really green if it doesn’t fulfil certain sustainability requirements.
- Because in the short term, the carbon benefits of bioenergy are questioned.
Key words for a sustainable development of bioenergy

- Proven carbon benefits
- Efficient biomass use/Cascading use of natural resources
- Efficient conversion technologies (coal plant co-firing, stand-alone electricity)
- Sustainable increased mobilisation of feedstocks (CAP, biomass supply strategies)
- Demand-side policies balanced with supply-side policies
- Long term stability and predictability
Thank you!

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