

MEDIA ALERT
BRUSSELS 23 January 2006

BIOMASS ACTION PLAN



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COGEN Europe calls for efficient use of biomass

COGEN Europe both welcomes and criticises the EU Action Plan on Biomass, presented by the European Commission on the 7th December 2006. COGEN Europe's position paper, issued today emphasises the need to highlight the role of biomass cogeneration within the plan. "It is important for the EU Member States to rise to the challenge of the Biomass Action Plan and implement it effectively and rapidly", Dr Simon Minett, Managing Director of COGEN Europe, says. "However, in the same way as fossil fuels, energy efficiency and the quality of energy conversion is of crucial importance. The production of only heat or only power from biomass would be a missed opportunity."

COGEN Europe believes that the advantages of biomass cogeneration should be taken into account also by the Council which today holds its first discussion on the Biomass Action Plan at a ministerial level. In its position paper COGEN Europe in particular calls for:

- Removing the split into individual contributions to the heat and electricity sectors
- Including cogeneration biomass into the national action plans on biomass
- Analysing heat demands that are suitable for biomass cogeneration.

The COGEN Europe position paper was released during the "European Biomass CHP Conference 2006" bringing together more than 100 representatives of the industry and of the public administration. Speakers included Ms Mechtilde Rothe (MEP), Mr Claude Turmes (MEP) and Andreas Heinz (DG TREN).

[Full text of the position paper](#)
[European Biomass CHP Conference](#)

CHP, Combined Heat and Power, or cogeneration is the simultaneous production of heat and electricity. This proven technology produces around 10% of Europe's electricity and heat requirements and has a significant growth potential, which will lead to an improved environment and greater economic competitiveness. It is a highly efficient energy solution that delivers substantial reductions in greenhouse gases and other pollutants and is the single largest solution to meeting the Kyoto Protocol on climate change for Europe.

COGEN Europe is Europe's umbrella organisation representing the interests of the cogeneration industry, users of the technology and promoting its benefits in the EU and the wider Europe. The association is backed by the key players in the industry including gas and electricity companies, ESCOs, equipment suppliers, consultancies, national promotion organisations, financial and other service companies.