

Letter of the European Commission, 2 August 2016
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Reassessment of voluntary schemes: transition measure

The Commission has so far recognised 19 voluntary schemes that are verifying compliance of biofuels with the EU sustainability criteria. In each case, the recognition is limited to a period of five years.

Accordingly, the Decisions on the first 7 schemes, which were recognised in July 2011, will expire on 9 August 2016. Several of these schemes have shown interest in a renewal of the recognition and have provided the Commission services with updated scheme documents.

For a couple of the schemes the technical assessments has been finalised and we expect that new Commission Decisions formally recognising the schemes can be adopted very soon while in a number of other cases the procedure will take more time.

We have informed the Member States that EU law would not prevent them to continue accepting evidence from schemes even after the Commission Decision has expired.

Similarly, as a transitional measure, in a view to avoid disruptions in the biofuel market, we would also recommend to the recognised voluntary schemes to continue accepting evidence from those seven schemes even if a gap between the expiry of the old and entry into force of a new Decision cannot be avoided.

This exception should be applied for a period of at most 3 month from the date of this letter.

Paula Abreu Marques – The Head of Unit
Directorate C - Renewables, Research and Innovation, Energy Efficiency
C.1 - Renewables and CCS policy