

# European Biogas Association

## **The need for a coordinated promotion of biogas**

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# The association

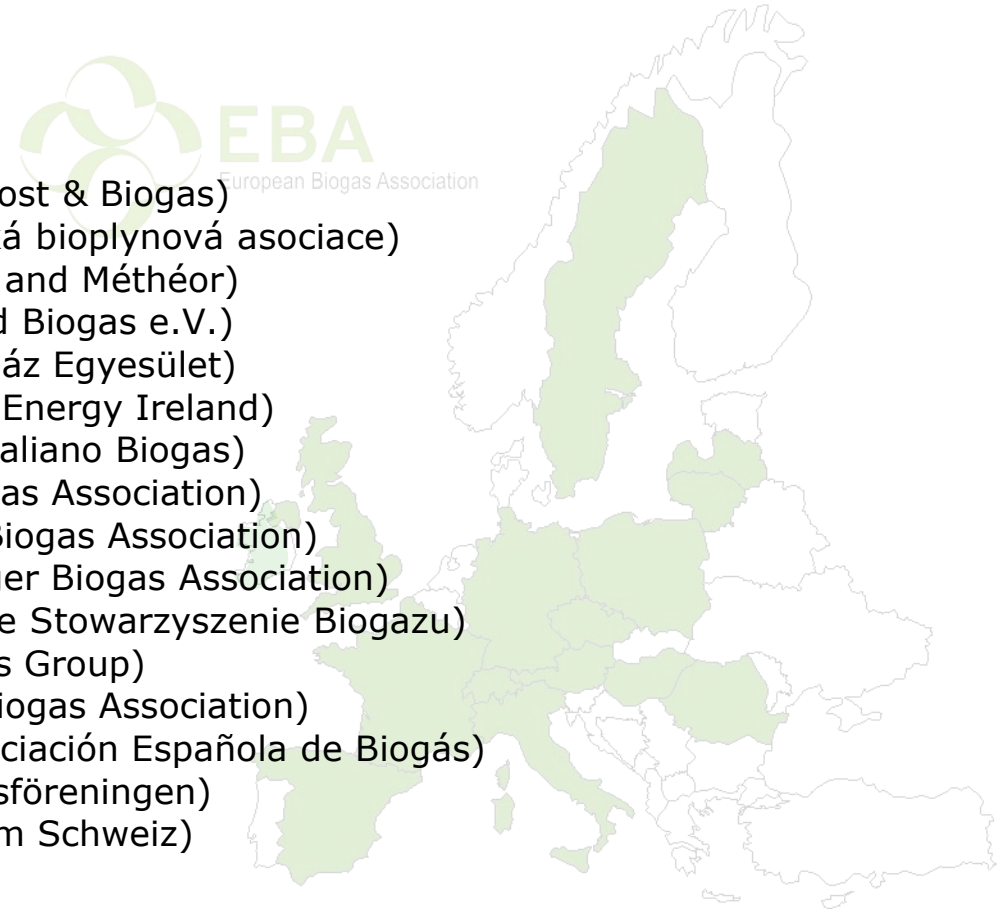
EBA is a very young association

- founded in February 2009
- seated in Brussels
- secretariat in Germany
- counts actually 16 national associations and two associated members (companies)

# The association

- covers 17 countries:

- Austria (ARGE Kompost & Biogas)
- Czech Republik (CzBA - Česká bioplynová asociace)
- France (Club Biogaz and Méthéor)
- Germany (Fachverband Biogas e.V.)
- Hungary (Magyar Biogáz Egyesület)
- Ireland (Sustainable Energy Ireland)
- Italy (Consortio Italiano Biogas)
- Latvia (Latvian Biogas Association)
- Lithuania (Lithuanian Biogas Association)
- Luxembourg (Luxembourger Biogas Association)
- Poland (PBA - Polskie Stowarzyszenie Biogazu)
- UK (REA - Biogas Group)
- Romania (Romanian Biogas Association)
- Spain (AEBIG - Asociación Española de Biogás)
- Sweden (Svenska Gasföreningen)
- Switzerland (Biogas Forum Schweiz)
- The Netherlands (DSM)

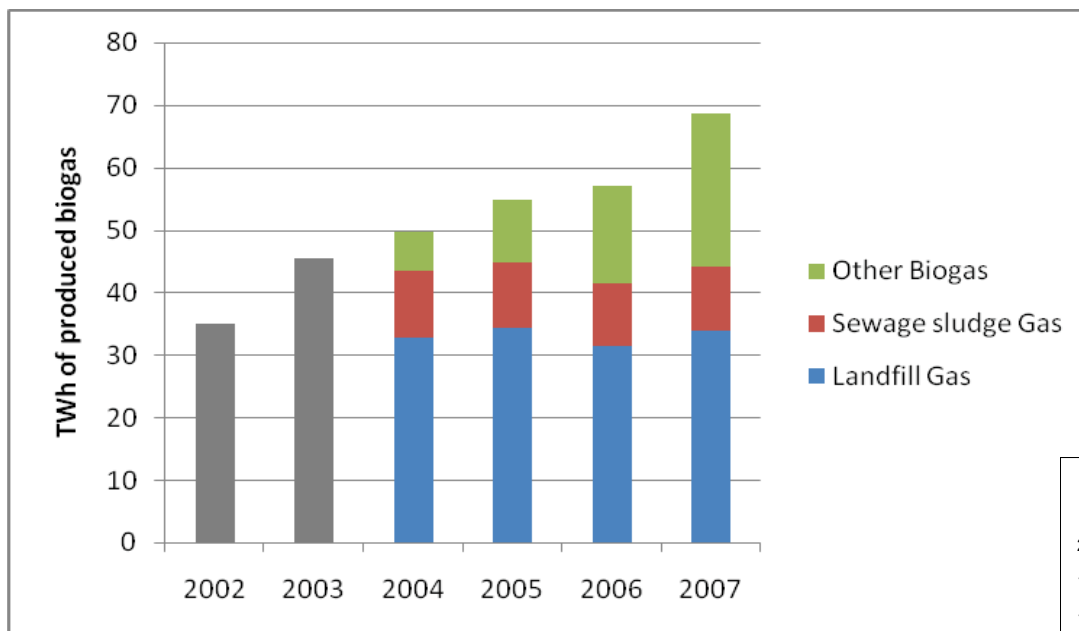


# The objectives

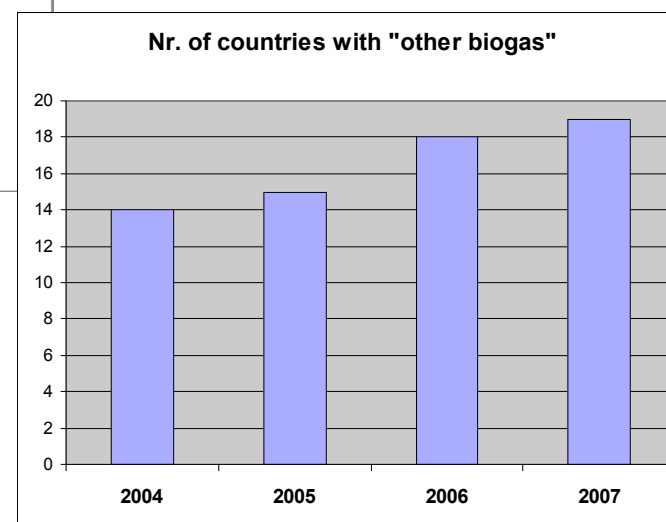
- Deployment of anaerobic digestion (AD) technology, i.e. production and utilisation of biomethane through dissemination of information, education and project assistance to stakeholders
- Awareness rising of environmental and socio-economic aspects of AD
- Provision of scientific and technical support to policy makers

# The need for a Biogas Association

## 1. INFORMATION TRANSFER



Source: Biogas Barometer 2003-2008



# Technology is developing fast

- Biowaste: dry and wet fermentation systems



# Technology is developing fast

- Agriculture:



# Technology is developing fast

- Gas cleaning and upgrading

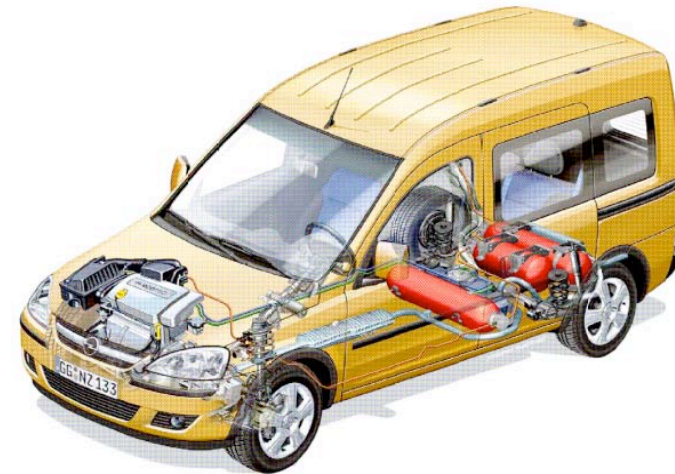


# Technology is developing fast

- Biogas utilisation



Electricity production



Vehicle fuel



# The need for a Biogas Association

## 2. POLICY ISSUES

EBA is working on two levels:

### National level

Deployment of information on

- good solutions for biogas promotion like support schemes, feed-in tariffs, tax reductions, etc.
- good examples of technical regulations

### European level

Information and collaboration with members of the commission and the parliament.

Initiation and support of new regulations and directives



# Hot topics in politics

- Biowaste directive
- Standardisation of biomethane
- Sustainability criteria

LCA: Food versus fuel

direct and indirect land use change

# The need for a Biowaste Directive

- Biowaste is one component of the new EU Waste Framework Directive: 2008/98/EC (Article 22)

*Member States shall encourage:*

- (a) the separate collection of bio-waste with a view to composting and digestion;*
- (b) the treatment of bio-waste in a way that fulfils a high level of environmental protection;*
- (c) the use of environmentally safe materials produced from bio-waste.*

*The Commission shall carry out an assessment on the management of bio-waste.*

*The assessment shall examine the opportunity of setting minimum requirements for bio-waste management and **quality criteria for compost and digestate** from biowaste.*



# The need for a Biowaste Directive

EBA requires:

- Give a compound and straight forward framework
- Definition of end-of-waste for compost and *digestate*
- Include all aspects of biomass: energy, fertiliser, soil improver
- Favour (re-)use of all food products
- Favour processes with high energy efficiencies
- Define product standards (digestate, compost)
- Define obligations for the use of products particularly by the public sector
- Include information and education, and set up international demonstration projects

# Standardisation of biomethane

In Article 16, the renewable energy directive asks (§10)

*...to publish technical rules in line with Article 6 of Directive 2003/55/EC concerning the common rules for the internal market in natural gas [21], in particular regarding network connection rules that include gas quality, gas odoration and gas pressure requirements.*

EBA clearly supports the development of biomethane standards for vehicle fuel and for grid injection, if ever possible combined in one standard

# Reasonable sustainability criteria

- Calculation of GHG Impact (Directive of RE)

## **Article 19 (6)**

*Concerning the as yet unquantified effects of Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC; Report on ILUC effects due by 31/12/2010)\*, safeguards to be provided to ensure certainty for investment undertaken before the ILUC methodology is applied.*

*So, for installations producing biofuels before 2014, measures shall not apply before 2018, provided they then achieve a GHG saving of at least 45%*

## **Article 19 (1)**

*Defines the method for calculation with typical default values in annex V; D & E.*

# Reasonable sustainability criteria

EBA clearly supports the integration of sustainability criteria, but

- calculation of iLUC should be based on real hard facts However, jacked data is not available yet nor are the calculation models that are properly evaluated.
- iLUC effects should not be restricted to biofuel production but include food production as well
- Effect of cascade utilisation (biorefineries) should be included however, allocation is still a major problem
- The re-integration of set aside land (27% in the EU) for energy crop should not be hindered by exaggerated bio-diversity requirements

# Reasonable sustainability criteria

## Conclusions:

- iLUCs should guide biofuel and food production but not circumvent it
  - starving people in an intact environment doesn't help much!
- biodiversity requirements should not be unreasonable
  - beetles and wurms do not replace food and fuel!
- Research has to be increased and data provided before any conclusions are drawn
  - A decision of the Commission by end of 2010 is premature
  - EBA clearly demands to postpone the date of iLUC application!

# Summing up

EBA supports a sustainable agriculture but

- scientific evidence should set the pace
- LCA's are just an instrument, sensitive to manipulation

...and we should never forget that until the early stages of the 20th century agriculture used always between 16% (Switzerland) and 21% (Austria) of the land for energy production.



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