

**Question for written answer E-015499/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Daciana Octavia Sârbu (S&D)

Subject: Biomass

Biomass is a renewable energy source and considered to be 'carbon neutral'. There are incentives to use biomass for electricity generation, as this does not incur costs associated with the Emissions Trading Scheme and counts towards Member States' renewable energy targets.

However, concerns remain about the sustainability of biomass because it has the potential to encourage deforestation and the degradation of forests and/or agricultural land. These concerns relate to biomass produced in the EU as well as biomass imported from third countries.

In 2014, the Commission reported on the sustainability of biomass used for electricity, heating and cooling in the EU¹. It noted that a 'limited number of Member States have adopted broadly consistent sustainability schemes' in response to the concerns about possible negative environmental impacts.

Has any further progress been made towards sustainable use of biomass both in the EU and further afield?

Will the Commission take further action to ensure that biomass policy achieves its intended objectives without causing environmental damage to, for example, eco-systems, forests and agricultural land?

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/2014_biomass_state_of_play_.pdf