

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

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

Brussels, **18 NOV. 2015**
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**To the voluntary schemes that
have been recognised by the
Commission for demonstrating
compliance with the sustainability
criteria for biofuels**

**Subject: Implementation of the ILUC Directive and update of the template
used for the assessment of voluntary schemes**

Dear Madam,
Dear Sir,

The ILUC Directive (Directive 2015/1513/EU) that entered into force on October 5, 2015 includes a number of amendments that are relevant for the operation of voluntary schemes. These changes will need to be taken into account when it is decided whether a scheme can be recognised for demonstrating compliance with the sustainability criteria for biofuels.


We consider this a good opportunity to update the template that has been applied for the technical assessments that are conducted by external contractors on behalf of the Commission. Next to the legal changes, this update takes into account also experience gained over the last couple of years and aims to further improve the reliability and transparency of sustainability certification. Most of the new requirements reflected in the template have already been communicated to the schemes in the various guidance notes. In addition the updated template takes into account feedback from the Member States which have been closely involved in the process.

The template captures the features that are considered essential to ensure the required degree of reliability, transparency and independent auditing required for sustainability certification. Please note, however, that in the design of the template, a balance between the necessary detail and the size limitations is stricken. Many technical aspects, included in the legislation, or in relevant Commission documents, cannot be displayed in full detail but will of course be taken into account during the assessment.

The template will provide the basis for all future technical assessments of voluntary schemes including reassessments of recognised schemes. Please note, however, that it might be necessary to provide further guidance on specific matters also in the future which in consequence might make further adjustments of the assessment framework necessary. For your information, the new template can be found on the Commission website¹.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paula R', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

Paula Abreu Marques

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/renewable-energy/biofuels/voluntary-schemes>