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PROMOTING THE UPTAKE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN EUROPE

The acknowledgement of the role of sustainable biofuels in the positions of the European Parliament and Council on the recast of the renewable energy directive is welcomed by UPEI in its commitment to deliver low carbon fuels in the transport and heating sectors.

UPEI welcomes the fact that both institutions have raised the level of ambition by introducing a renewables target for transport, recognizing and building on achievements to date. Maintaining a target for renewables in transport as well as recognizing the contribution that all sustainable biofuels with low ILUC can make are particularly welcome.

As negotiations with the Council commence, UPEI calls for legislative predictability and realistic targets in order to stimulate the necessary investments to boost the bringing to market of advanced biofuels on a commercial scale, whilst allowing the amortisation of investment costs into First Generation Biofuels. Maintaining the 7% cap on crop-based biofuels and recognizing their contribution towards greenhouse gas emission reduction is key.

Equally important is the need for a stable framework for the definition of and mutual recognition amongst Member State of fuels and feedstocks that meet renewable and sustainability criteria. Currently, this is not the case in the biofuels sector which lacks a Single Market. As the pressure on fuel suppliers mounts to fulfil increasing obligations with regards to renewable energy targets, the internal market principles should be applied and respected.

Speaking on behalf of UPEI, Yvonne Stausbøll, Secretary General stated: “Independent fuel suppliers have consistently demonstrated their commitment to bringing renewables to market as one means to decarbonise the transport sector. However, to be more successful we need to ensure greater coherence in EU legislation and a level playing field in the way that it is transposed and implemented.”

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**UPEI** represents European importers and wholesale/retail distributors of refined petroleum products and their alternatives, supplying Europe's customers, independently of the major petroleum producers.

Independent suppliers, covering more than a third of Europe's demand, play a crucial role in an evolving market by bringing competition which is vital to the economy. Their independence enables them to respond rapidly to changes in terms of market structure, products and services, contributing to security of supply on a local, regional and national level.

**UPEI** was created in 1962 with the aim of ensuring a level playing field for the supply of energy on the European market and safeguarding a competitive approach. The organisation brings together national associations and suppliers across Europe.

Today, **UPEI** also acts as an informed and responsible partner to Europe's decision-makers on the risks and opportunities involved in the transition to a genuine European Energy Union.