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Heating with Liquid Fuels: Part of the solution for an affordable decarbonisation

Four associations representing the whole supply chain join forces to inform EU audiences about oil and liquid fuels for heating and their potential to reach EU's energy and climate policy goals

Did you know liquid fuels can be supplied everywhere? Did you know oil heating releases substantially fewer particulates into the air than wood and had similar carbon dioxide emission levels as gas over the whole life cycle? Did you know modern oil boilers can help consumers reduce their energy bills by up to 30%?...

While liquid fuels provide heat to one of six households across Europe, their contribution to Europe's energy and climate policy objectives often remains unknown. The advantages of oil heating especially in rural areas are frequently ignored and its carbon footprint generally overestimated by policy-makers.

To counter these myths and misconceptions and as the European Commission finalises its 3rd State of the Energy Union Report, four associations representing the whole supply chain of liquid fuel heating are joining forces to publish a guide to oil and other liquid fuels for heating in Europe. The document, presented in Brussels today, explains the features of this energy model and outlines development perspectives towards 2050.

Daniel Leuckx, from the refiners' association FuelsEurope, said: "*Liquid fuels follow very strict production standards. They also represent a very competitive and affordable energy*".

Johannes Heinritzi, President of the oil distributors' association ECFD, insisted: "*Unlike other heat sources, liquid fuels can be supplied everywhere. The distribution infrastructure is well developed and we are operating on a very competitive market with a high diversity of suppliers*".

Tristan Suffys, for Europe's heating oil association Eurofuel, said: "*Liquid fuels are a perfect energy form to facilitate the deployment of renewables, as a back-up energy for hybrid systems, and as an evolutive energy source with the increasing use of low-carbon fuels. This is particularly relevant for the introduction of new EU rules on renewables in heating*".

Yvonne Stausbøll, speaking on behalf of the independent fuel suppliers' association UPEI, said: "*EU and national policy-makers should recognise the positive contribution that evolving liquid fuels can make to an economically and socially fair energy transition. It is crucial to maintain a varied energy mix and a free choice of technologies by citizens*".

The new guide aims to answer policy-makers' and other interested parties' questions about the current role and perspectives of liquid fuels in heating. It will be available for download from the websites of all signatory associations.



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About ECFD

The European Confederation of Fuel Distributors (ECFD) is the umbrella association of the federations of heating oil distributors in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany and the United Kingdom and independent petrol station owners of Austria, Belgium, France and Germany. Its mission is to defend the interests of its members at European level safeguarding the independence, resilience and profitability of businesses supplying petroleum products for households and motorists in the European Union. ECFD members represent mainly small and medium-sized, often family-owned, companies.

ECFD is aware of the role of its members in protecting the environment. We promote energy efficient systems, such as thermal insulation and condensing boilers, to our customers as well as complementary renewable energy sources, e.g. solar, wind, wood and biofuels. In addition, we support alternative fuels for transport where demand and supply meet, providing for effective business cases. We feel this goes some way to help tackling the major challenges of climate change, improving air quality, reduction of CO2 emissions, security of supply, energy efficiency and the competitiveness of the European industry.

Find more at www.ecfd.be

About Eurofuel

Eurofuel is the European Heating Oil Association, which represents the national organisations that promote the use of liquid fuels for domestic heating in 10 European countries, including over 10,000 companies. Heating oil is nowadays an important and very efficient source of energy to provide comfortable temperatures in homes of millions of Europeans. It is a perfect back-up to accompany the deployment of renewable energy sources. Increasingly, multi-energy hybrid heating systems are being developed. Thanks to unique storage capacities, heating oil ensures a constant and reliable energy supply whenever the combined renewable systems cannot deliver. In difficult economic times, highly efficient modern oil heating systems combined with renewable systems represent a cost-effective and realistic option for households to reduce their energy consumption at a lower cost and contribute to save our environment.

Find more at www.eurofuel.eu and follow us on Twitter (@EUROFUELEnergy).

About FuelsEurope

FuelsEurope represents with the EU institutions the interest of 40 Companies operating refineries in the EU. Members account for almost 100% of EU petroleum refining capacity and more than 75% of EU motor fuel retail sales.

FuelsEurope aims to promote economically and environmentally sustainable refining, supply and use of petroleum products in the EU, by providing input and expert advice to the EU Institutions, Member State Governments and the wider community, thus contributing in a constructive and pro-active way to the development and implementation of EU policies and regulations.

Find more at www.fuelseurope.eu

About UPEI

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.

Find more at www.upei.org