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Joint Heating Commission calls for policy support to help switch to renewable heating fuels

With more than 20 million households in Europe relying on liquid fuels for heating, the associations forming the Joint Heating Commission, ECFD, Eurofuel, FuelsEurope and UPEI, are urging policymakers to support renewable liquid fuels to meet the EU's 2030, 2040, and 2050 climate targets. As the EU focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the associations emphasise that liquid fuels remain essential for rural, off-grid communities, providing an affordable, reliable energy source. Their latest publication explains it all: Heating with liquid fuels.

Renewable Fuels for a Low-Carbon Future

The future of oil heating is transforming with the advent of renewable liquid fuels such as HVO, FAME, and PtL fuels. These fuels reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 100 per cent compared to fossil fuels, presenting a viable path towards the EU's decarbonisation targets. Furthermore, these renewable fuels can be used in existing boilers, minimising the cost and disruption for households as they transition to lower-carbon energy.

Federica Miano, Secretary General of Eurofuel said *"With the right framework conditions, renewable liquid fuels can provide Europe's rural communities with sustainable heating without compromising on energy security."*

Liana Gouta, Director General of Fuels Europe said *"Renewable and low-carbon liquid fuels are inclusive energy vectors that allow lower income households and those living in off-grid areas to afford a lower carbon-footprint to heat their homes. The European Union must support R&D efforts in liquid fuels technologies. Energy delivered in a liquid state will always be critical to the energy security of European citizens."*

Three Steps for Transitioning to Carbon-Neutral Heating

The associations recommend a three-step approach to facilitate the transition to carbon-neutral heating for Europe's oil-heated homes:

1. **Maximise Boiler Efficiency:** Encourage the replacement of outdated heating systems with modern, condensing boilers, which can reduce fuel consumption and emissions by up to 30%.
2. **Promote Hybrid Systems:** Incentivise hybrid heating systems that combine oil with renewable energy sources, such as solar and heat pumps, to enhance energy efficiency and reduce emissions.
3. **Introduce Renewable Liquid Fuels:** Deploy bio-based and synthetic liquid fuels to replace traditional fossil fuels progressively.

Policy Recommendations

The associations therefore call on EU policy makers to support the transition by:

- **Implementing a technology-neutral policy framework** that incentivises the production of renewable liquid fuels and promotes the adoption of efficient heating systems across all energy types.

- **Promoting life-cycle emissions assessments** to account for emissions at all stages of production and combustion.
- **Increase investment in research and innovation** for renewable liquid fuels.
- **Addressing the social impacts of the energy transition**, ensuring affordable and accessible low-carbon heating solutions for all, especially low-income and rural households.

About ECFD

The ECFD represents the interests of more than 10,000 independent, often family-owned, distributors of liquid fuels for the mobility and heating sectors. For more information, visit: www.fuel-distributors.eu.

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About Eurofuel

Eurofuel represents companies and organisations that develop and promote low-carbon liquid fuels for domestic heating in Europe. For more information, visit www.eurofuel.eu.

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About FuelsEurope

FuelsEurope, the voice of the European fuel manufacturing industry. FuelsEurope represents, within the EU institutions, the interest of 41 companies manufacturing and distributing conventional and renewable fuels and products for mobility, energy & feedstocks for industrial value chains in the EU. For more information, visit www.fuelseurope.eu

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About UPEI

UPEI is the European association representing the independent energy and mobility suppliers. Our members are national associations or companies in the heating and transport energy sectors. For more information, visit www.upei.org.

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