Biogas: A Cornerstone of Europe's Sustainable and Secure Energy Transition

Finland's Model as a Blueprint for Europe

FinMobility, representing the Finnish road transport and mobility sector together with Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK), believes that Europe needs practical, locally deployable solutions to reduce energy dependency, cut transport emissions, and strengthen regional vitality. Biogas offers an immediately available, cost-effective, and sustainably produced answer, especially when its production and use are rooted in local resource cycles.

The Finnish Biogas—Integrating Circular Economy, Energy Security, and Clean Mobility

Finland has developed a decentralised model for producing biogas from agricultural, industrial, and municipal bio-waste and side streams. The energy generated is used locally—for example, in regional transport, agricultural machinery, and combined heat and power production.

This approach delivers multiple, simultaneous benefits:

- **Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency:** Local raw materials are fully utilised, and nutrients are returned to the soil.
- **Security of Supply and Energy Resilience:** Significant domestic feedstock potential reduces reliance on imported fuels and strengthens Europe's energy security.
- **Climate Impact:** When assessed on a Well-to-Wheel basis, waste- and residue-based biogas delivers greenhouse gas savings comparable to – and in many cases exceeding – those of other renewable fuels and can approach near-zero emissions.
- **Regional Vitality and Competitiveness:** Biogas investments support rural employment, strengthen local business networks, and promote sustainable economic growth.

Integrating Biogas into the EU's Energy and Transport Framework

The EU must recognise biogas as an equal pillar of the EU's renewable and technology-neutral transition, alongside electricity, hydrogen, and synthetic fuels. It offers a cost-effective and scalable pathway to decarbonise sectors where electrification remains difficult—particularly in heavy-duty road transport, agriculture, and industrial heat.

However, a persistent cost gap compared to fossil fuels continues to hinder scale-up. Without targeted and predictable policy support, final investment decisions (FIDs) for new production capacity will not materialise at the pace required.

We therefore call for:

1. **Strategic recognition and policy support of biogas in the EU climate, energy and transport policy** as a key renewable solution for enhancing energy resilience and autonomy.
2. **Stable and coherent regulatory framework**—avoiding overlaps or contradictions between the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and LULUCF Regulation—to provide long-term investment certainty for production plants, distribution networks and refuelling infrastructure.
3. **Equal treatment in transport:** waste- and residue-based biogas should qualify as zero-emission fuel, equivalent to renewable electricity in CO_2 accounting and taxation, based on a full life cycle (Well-to-Wheel) perspective.
4. **Targeted EU funding** through programs such as *InvestEU*, *Horizon Europe*, *CEF Transport*, and the *Common Agricultural Policy*, to expand small-scale production, agricultural biogas units and refuelling networks across Europe.
5. **Integration of nutrient recycling and biogas into the EU waste and agricultural frameworks**, treating manure and bio-waste as valuable resources, not liabilities.
6. **A technology-neutral policy approach**, ensuring that multiple renewable solutions can scale in parallel, in line with the EU's decarbonisation and energy security objectives.
7. **Alignment with ongoing EU initiatives**, including the revision of the *Renewable Energy Directive*, *the Bioeconomy Strategy*, and the *Circular Economy Act*, to ensure consistent recognition of biogas across policy frameworks.

A European Opportunity—From Local Strengths to Continental Impact

Biogas can become a cornerstone of Europe's **energy sovereignty and green competitiveness**. It strengthens self-sufficiency, supports the REPowerEU objectives, and delivers tangible socio-economic benefits where they are most needed.

Finland's experience demonstrates that when **local actors, municipalities,** and **industries collaborate**, biogas infrastructure becomes both **environmentally sustainable and economically resilient**. With clear EU-level recognition and coherent regulation, this model can be replicated across Member States.

Our Key Message

Biogas is more than an energy solution—it is a strategic asset for Europe's climate transition, energy security, and regional development.

Finland's proven model offers the EU a practical pathway toward a resilient, circular, technology-neutral, and climate-neutral energy future. Now is the momentum to scale it into a truly European success story.

Contact for more information

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