

MEDIA ALERT
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BIOMASS CHP



COGEN Europe targets growth in biomass CHP

To promote biomass CHP across Europe effectively, there is a need for a stable long-term policy and support framework. Strong political backing is the most important factor to make biomass CHP a success. This is the main outcome of a high-profile conference report that aimed at providing a roadmap for the way forward to the European Commission, National Governments, developers, operators and suppliers. Today COGEN Europe releases the conclusions of this event on how to promote the uptake of biomass CHP. Other recommendations are:

- Biomass in combination with CHP should be the first choice whenever a suitable heat demand and supply of biomass fuel is available;
- A more targeted use of subsidies is needed to promote biomass CHP;
- The special situation in Central and Eastern Europe should be addressed by making more and better use of the Structural Funds.

Following the recent publication of the Biomass Action Plan (COM 2005, 628) and the final phase in the discussions on the implementation of the Directive on CHP (2004/8/EC), COGEN Europe organised with the support of the DG Energy and Transport of the European Commission the *European Biomass CHP Conference 2006* in Brussels.

Both European Commission policy initiatives should provide a fresh stimulus for the wider and greater use of bio-energies across Europe. The potential is huge and with increasing prices for fossil fuels and security of supply currently high on the EU agenda, the opportunities are more urgent and attractive for investors. COGEN Europe intends to gather momentum for biomass CHP as an environmentally-friendly and energy-efficient conversion technique that has the potential to bring many benefits to society, markets and environment.

An increased uptake of biomass CHP can contribute to achieving strategic EU energy goals, such as energy efficiency, security of supply and the reduction of CO₂ emissions. The many solutions to the regulatory, market and R&D barriers, as identified during the Conference, can help the issue move forward, improve the market conditions for biomass CHP and thereby increase the competitiveness of Europe's energy industries.

See full text of report on the *European Biomass CHP Conference 2006*:

http://www.cogen.org/Downloadables/Publications/Publishable_Report_of_the_European_Biomass_CHP_Conference_2006.pdf

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CHP, Combined Heat and Power, or cogeneration is the simultaneous production of heat and electricity. This proven technology produces around 10% of Europe's electricity and heat requirements and has a significant growth potential, which will lead to an improved environment and greater economic competitiveness. It is a highly efficient energy solution that delivers substantial reductions in greenhouse gases and other pollutants and is the single largest solution to meeting the Kyoto Protocol on climate change for Europe.

COGEN Europe is Europe's umbrella organisation representing the interests of the cogeneration industry, users of the technology and promoting its benefits in the EU and the wider Europe. The association is backed by the key players in the industry including gas and electricity companies, ESCOs, equipment suppliers, consultancies, national promotion organisations, financial and other service companies.