

Florence, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## PRESS RELEASE

### The European Algae Biomass Association (EABA) welcomes today's Commission legislative proposal for algae based biofuels quadruple counting under the Renewable Energy Directive

**Florence, Oct. 17** – Algae based biofuels will count quadruple towards EU biofuels and GHG emission reduction targets under the new proposal for revising the EU biofuels policy and ILUC that the EC Commission has published this morning. This has the potential to trigger a very positive development of research and investment in the EU algae sector as a whole.

The European algae biomass sector welcomes the decision confirmed this morning by the European Commission to include algae biomass in the first place of the list of substances which will count four times their energy content towards the overall 10% EU target for renewable fuels in transport, under Directive 2009/28. This gives a strong message about the fact that the development of algae based biofuels (which have no ILUC impact) will be strongly incentivised vis-à-vis conventional biofuels in the years to come. This is a unique opportunity of growth for the overall EU algae biomass sector, which can become a provider of revolutionary new generation protein, feed, nutraceuticals and innovative bio-materials for the future.

In addition to the quadruple counting – which per se is potentially going to attract strong investment and economic potential to the algae biomass production chain in Europe – the proposal that will be published today also highlights that algae will be among the few raw materials for biofuels production for which European and public support will be ensured well beyond 2020, as clearly stated in the explanatory memorandum.

*“Such decision has the potential to trigger strong investment, research and industrial deployment in the EU algae sector, by making it relatively easier to reach, in the long term, economic viability”* affirmed Ms Chiara Zanasi, Project manager at EABA.

As of today a large scale production of algae-based biofuels does not exist in Europe. Three major industrial pilot projects<sup>1</sup> supported by EU R&D funds are under construction and should deliver some answer in the next two years about when an algae-to-biofuels production chain can potentially become economically viable.

The impact of this proposal and the future development of the algae biomass sector will be discussed and analysed in depth at the forthcoming **EABA Algae Biomass Conference and Expo** that will be held **next May 28–29th, 2013 in Florence, (Italy)**, to which the overall EU and international algae stakeholders and academia will be conveyed together with EU decision makers and EC Commission and Member States representatives.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information please contact the EABA Secretariat

## ***Background information on the EU algae biomass sector and EABA***

*The EABA was founded in 2009 with the aim to foster synergies among science and industry, while cooperating with decision makers for the promotion of development in research and technology in the field of algae.*

*Algae and aquatic biomass are increasingly raising the interest of the scientific community, industry representatives as well as political decision makers as they represent one of the most promising renewable sources for a wide range of third-generation low-carbon applications not only in the field of renewable energies (i.e. biofuels – including jet fuels), but also as nutrients – algae proteins have excellent nutritional values –, pharmaceuticals, animal feed or bio-based products (bio-plastics, bio-cosmetics, etc.).*

*In all these sectors, algae and aquatic biomass hold an outstanding potential to achieve a real revolution towards a fully sustainable economy. Algae have the potential to grow and produce impressive amounts of biomass using for instance sea water (i.e. a virtually unlimited raw material) and reduced surfaces (even of unproductive land) where a bio-reactor or a pond can be installed to grow algae.*

*Today this could be already feasible, but number of technical, legal and scientific obstacles still need to be overcome in order to bring down the final price of algae biomass to an economic level and to produce a fully reliable quality product. This needs to be improved seriously, avoiding over-enthusiastic announcements and promoting efficient and responsible research. This is the objective of the EABA as an industrial and scientific Association, aiming to support the efforts of the various actors in the algae sector in order to make this happen. The development of research towards an algae industry deserves today to be supported as a priority in light of the major challenges Europe is facing for greenhouse gas reduction, no ILUC impact and improved security of energy supply coupled with technological excellence.*

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*The European Algae Biomass Association EABA is established as a non-profit organisation that encourages synergies in research and the commercialisation of algae biomass production and use, including biofuels and other utilizations. EABA aims at supporting the development of an algae economy and all range of algae applications, via research and industrial support representing its members interests at EU and international level.*

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