



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Cabinet of Commissioner Karel De Gucht

The Head of Cabinet

Inter-Environnement
Wallonie-RTW

07.03.2012

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RECU

Dear Mr. Schoune,

Thank you for your letter of 14 February in which you express your views on the policy options assessed by the Commission regarding indirect land use change related to biofuels. Commissioner Karel De Gucht has requested me to reply to your letter on his behalf.

We have taken good note of the issues you express and we acknowledge that this is an important matter. In order to assess this issue, the Commission has undertaken extensive consultations. We have also looked into a wide range of studies and commissioned our own studies. As you know, on the basis of these consultations and studies, the Commission has set out its preliminary conclusions on this matter in the report adopted on 22 December 2010¹. As you rightly stated, the Commission considers that, if action is required, indirect land-use change should be addressed under a precautionary approach.

The Commission wants to ensure that any potential policy decisions are based on the best available scientific evidence. Although DG TRADE closely follows this debate, primary responsibility for this dossier and the related policy options – according to our internal division of competences – lies with Commissioner for Energy Mr. Günter Oettinger and Commissioner for Climate action Ms. Connie Hedegaard.

Yours sincerely,

Marc VANHEUKELEN

Mr. Christophe Schoune
Secretary-general of Inter-Environnement Wallonie
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B- 5000 Namur

CC: Commissioner Hedegaard
Commissioner Oettinger

¹ COM (2010) 811, available via http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/biofuels/land_use_change_en.htm