

BIOMASS SUSTAINABILITY

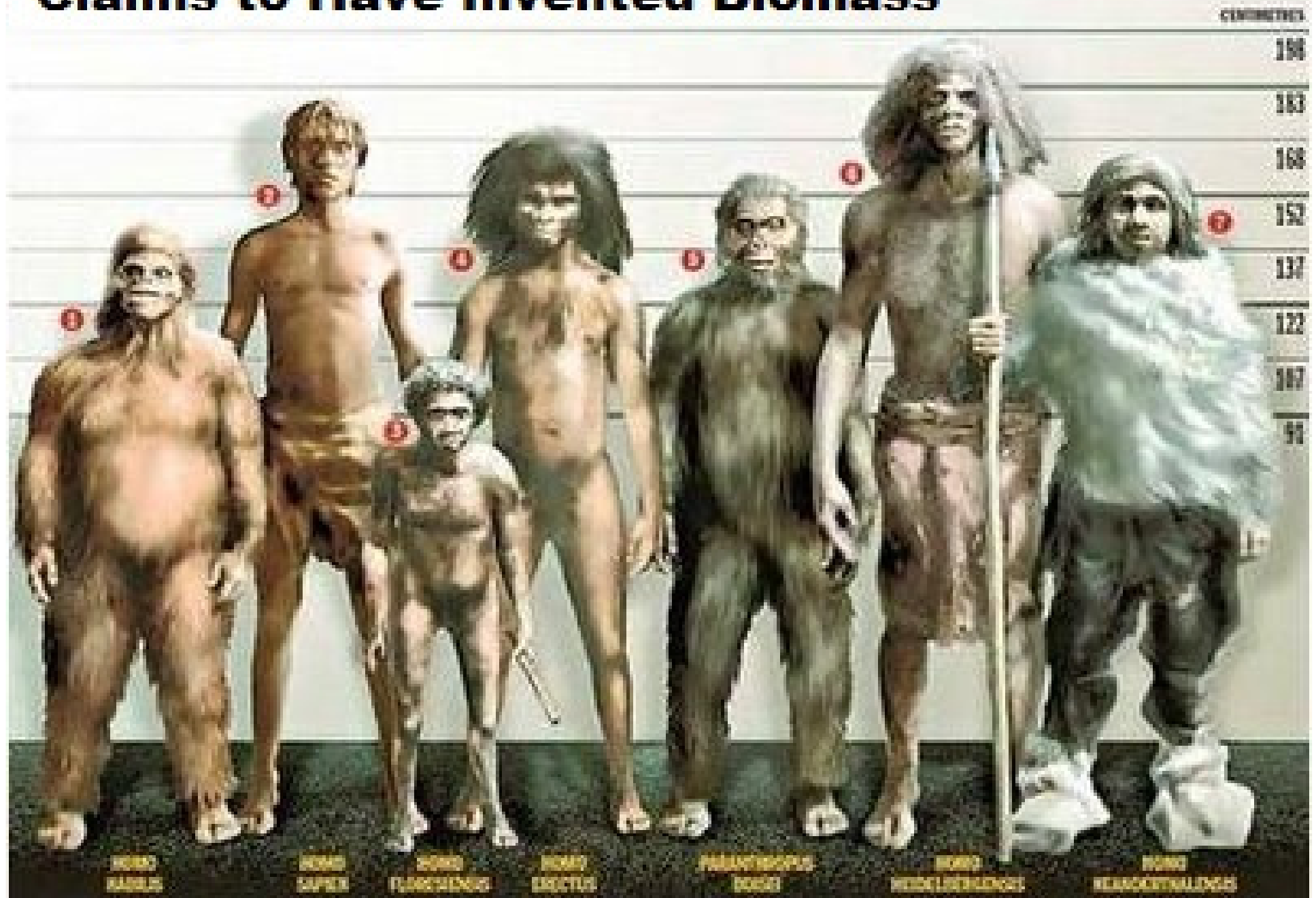
WHAT IS BIOMASS ?

IS PRODUCTION

AND USE

SUSTAINABLE ?????

Claims to Have Invented Biomass



Biomass

The biodegradable fraction of products, waste and residues from biological origin from agriculture (including vegetal and animal substances), forestry and related industries including fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the biodegradable fraction of industrial and municipal waste

ENERGY

Wood panel makers down tools over biomass subsidies

By Dafydd ab Iago

As a sign of growing competition between the biomass sector and other users of wood, the European Panel Federation organised a day of action against subsidies for biomass fuel on 29 October. Some 150 wood panel manufacturers in 20 EU countries stopped production in protest at the subsidies.

«We want the EU to rethink its support policy. You can recycle wood many times, but you can only burn it once,» said Euro-panel Secretary General Kris Wijnendaele. Wijnendaele is calling on the European Commission to carefully evaluate the National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAPs), which must report on potential conflicts over material use and resource shortfalls.

Manufacturers and other non-fuel users of wood point to biomass demand for wood feedstock leading to a shortage of around 400 million m³ of wood in Europe by 2020. Wijnendaele told Euro-politics that the NREAPs, required under the 2009 renew-

ables Directive, forecast around 411 tonnes of additional wood being burnt. «Where will member states get this wood from?» he asks.

In Belgium alone, the price for wood has risen by 50% over the last year despite the economic crisis. «By giving money to the biomass energy sector to burn wood, you are distorting the market,» Wijnendaele said.

The European Biomass Association (AEBIOM) admits that there is increasing competition between the different users of wood, but notes that a higher price for wood will help encourage the use of other wood resources, notably forest residues. These other resources are unexploited at the moment due to their lack of profitability. AEBIOM also argues that providing energy, and especially heating, should not be considered as less valid than other uses of wood.

In its arguments, the biomass association also takes a shot at the panel industry for formerly abusing a «monopoly» position. «Prices of such valuable biomass were extremely low, sometimes even 'negative' and treated as waste. The panel industry

took advantage of its strong position as the sole possible client for biomass producers (sawdust, etc.),» notes AEBIOM. Biomass prices are thus rising due to greater competition for the raw material and due to higher energy prices. ■

Background

The renewable energy Directive (2009/28/EC) defines biomass as «... the biodegradable fraction of products, wastes and residues from biological origin from agriculture (including vegetable and animal substances), forestry and related industries including fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the biodegradable fraction of industrial and municipal waste». In 2007, bioenergy contributed to 78 million tons oil equivalent (Mtoe) to the EU's final energy consumption, or 6.7% of the total energy consumption. It represents two-thirds of all renewables.

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current, and improve biomass for energy to its sustainability, approaches to assessing sustainability of biomass are being applied in other countries and an EU wide scheme for determining the sustainability of biofuels is at an advanced stage of development.

Pearse Buckley, SEI's representative on the Executive Committee of the IEA Bioenergy Implementing Agreement said: «The sustainability of biomass has become a focus of public debate, particularly due to the rise in global demand for biofuels. Here in Ireland the Bioenergy Working Group, which has been set up by the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources in conjunction with SEI, has a goal to develop a sustainable bioenergy supply roadmap towards the national renewable energy targets for 2020. This conference is happening at an opportune moment and will provide an important international perspective and inform the work of the Bioenergy Working Group.»



Biomass and Solar Energy Workshops

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

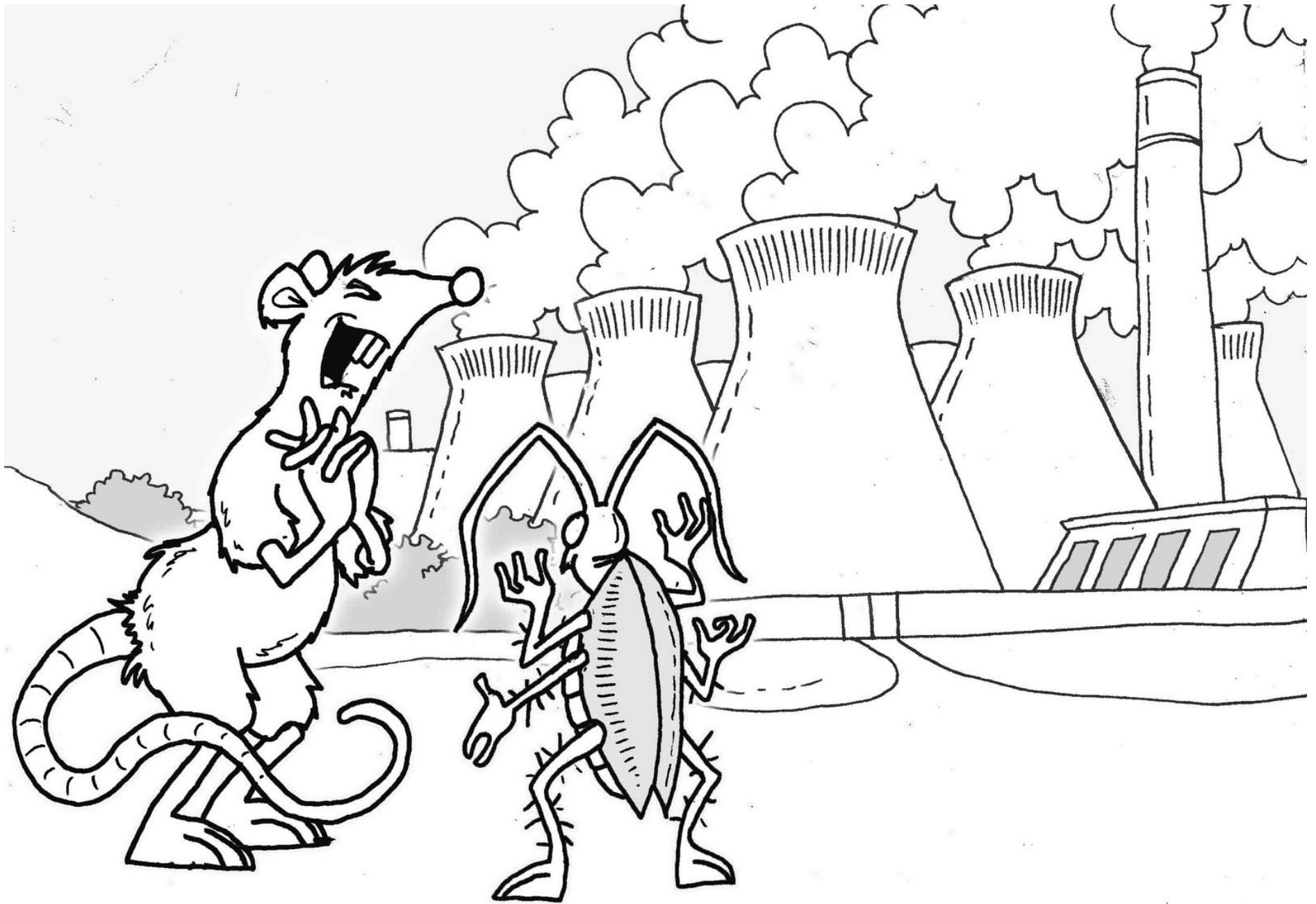
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**6th Commission meeting
10 December 2010**

**DRAFT OPINION
of the
Commission for the Environment, Climate Change and Energy
on
BIOMASS SUSTAINABILITY**

Rapporteur: Mr Brian MEANEY (IE/EA)
Clare County Council and Mid-West Regional Authority

This document will be discussed at the meeting of the **Commission for the Environment, Climate Change and Energy** to be held from **11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, 10 December 2010.**



Keep burning the coal you fools. Tomorrow belongs to us!