



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy

Bioenergy sustainability in the Renewable Energy Directive

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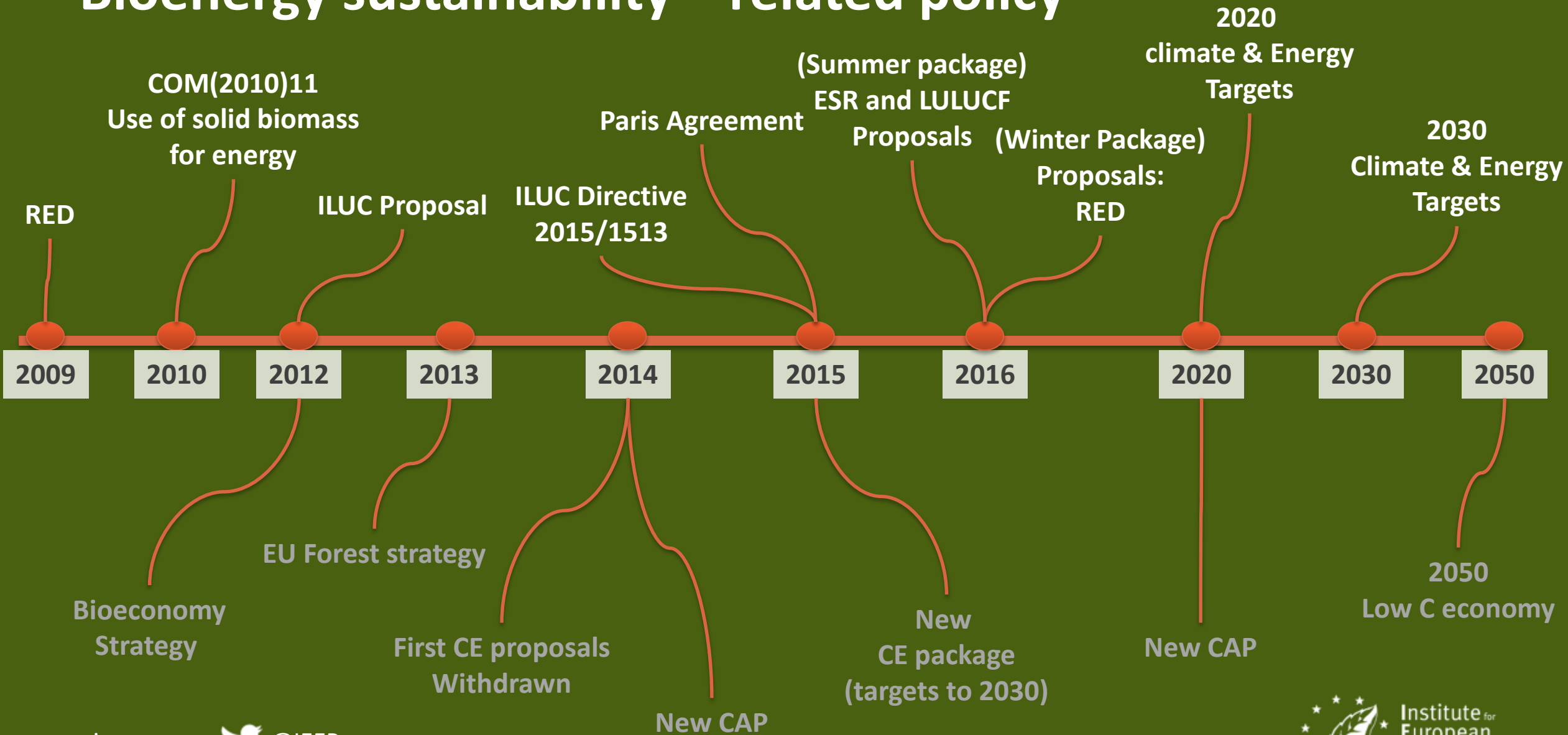
29 March 2017, European Parliament, Brussels

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Bioenergy sustainability – related policy





Agricultural biomass (post 2020)

- Progressive reduction in food & feed biofuels
- Targets for advanced biofuels in transport
- Land criteria:
 - High biodiversity value land
 - High carbon stock land
 - Peatland
 - Reference to CAP GAEC removed

Benefits:

- (some)Rebalancing of land-based to waste and residues
- Improvd peatland criteria

Risks:

- Little ambition beyond existing requirements

Improvements:

- Include all land-based fuels that cause ILUC within the cap
- Develop coherent criteria for waste & residues

Forest biomass (post 2020) (1/3)

- Risk-based approach (A. 26(5))
 - a) National/sub national laws, monitoring and enforcement:
 - Harvesting under permit
 - Forest regeneration takes place
 - Areas of conservation value are protected
 - Impacts on soils and biodiversity are minimised
 - Harvesting does not impact long-term production capacity
 - OR**
 - b) Management systems at the holding level with the above considerations



Forest biomass (post 2020) (2/3)

- Accounting (LULUCF) approach (A. 26(6))
 - i. Party to or ratified Paris Agreement
 - ii. Submitted a NDC to UNFCCC including AFOLU
 - iii. National system for reporting GHG emissions from AFOLU

OR

- When evidence is not available.... management systems at holding level to ensure stocks and sinks are maintained

Forest biomass (post 2020) (3/3)

- Sustainability criteria required only for:
 - Solid biomass facility > 20MW
 - Gaseous biomass facility > 0.5MW
- Member State flexibility:
 - can require criteria for smaller suppliers
 - option for additional biomass sustainability requirements

Benefits:

- Inclusion of criteria for forest biomass
- Recognised Importance of accounting

Risks:

- Doesn't go far beyond baseline;
- No land criteria
- LULUCF not yet decided
- Carbon payback not fully addressed

Improvements:

- Specific land-criteria
- Approaches to tackling carbon debt / payback periods

Ensuring the sustainability of bioenergy

1. Sustainable sourcing
 - Type of feedstock & its source
2. Sustainable deployment
 - Sustainability criteria and/or cap
3. Accounting
 - Payback period, transport and conversion

“The bioenergy sector must be able to demonstrate to civil society, regulators and consumers that it is delivering GHG reductions in a sustainable way”.

Thank you for your attention

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