

# Market and policy trends for solid biomass fuels

**BULK TERMINALS LISBON 2023**  
25-26 OCTOBER 2023

ASSOCIATION OF BULK TERMINAL OPERATORS (ABTO)

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**Bi**energy  
EUROPE

#bepartofbioenergy

1. ABOUT BIOENERGY EUROPE
2. POLICY DEVELOPMENTS
3. MARKET TRENDS
4. FINAL MESSAGES AND CONCLUSIONS

# About Us



Common voice of European bioenergy since 1990



Unites more than **40 associations** and around **150 companies**



Hosting the **European Pellet Council (EPC)**



Quality & Sustainability **Certifications**

**BiOenergy**  
EUROPE

## Our Services:



EU Policy Monitoring & Influence



Market Data



Visibility



Networking



Free & Discounted Events

# Our Members

\*as of October 2023

## Companies



## Associations



## Academia



# Our Working Groups

## Members Only



### Pellets

Next Date: H1 2024 (TBD)

Main topics: updates on European and global pellet markets (residential, commercial, industrial); pelletization technologies; agropellets and advanced pellets; communication and promotion of pellet usage



### Competitiveness

Next Date: 16 Nov 2023

Main topics: policy files affecting the competitiveness of bioenergy sector within the EU (e.g. carbon tax, state aid, RePowerEU, Net Zero Industry Act, etc.)



### Agro-biomass

Next Date: H1 2024 (TBD)

Main topics: markets and emerging initiatives for the use of agricultural residues, agro-industrial residues and energy crops; interconnections between agriculture & energy policy files



### Sustainability

Next Date: 31 Oct 2023

Main topics: EU legislation impacting the sustainable mobilization of biomass feedstocks for energy production, e.g. RED II, RED III, Taxonomy, etc.



### Wood Supply

Next Date: H1 2024 (TBD)

Main topics: markets for wood fuels (e.g. wood chips, sawdust, firewood, etc.); market and policy factors affecting wood supply; forest management & interaction with wood fuels markets



### Domestic Heating

Next Date: H1 2024 (TBD)

Main topics: policy files related to biomass use for the domestic heating sector, such as building regulations, air emissions, Ecodesign and Ecolabelling regulations for biomass stove & boilers



### Carbon Dioxide Removals

Next Date: 8 Nov 2023

Main topics: policy files regarding negative emissions (e.g. carbon removals certification framework); technologies and projects for carbon removals from biomass (e.g. BECCS and biochar)



### Task Force National Advocacy

Next Date: TBD

Scope: enhance cooperation between Bioenergy Europe and National biomass associations for more effective advocacy on EU and national levels



### Task Force Communications

Next Date: TBD

Scope: share experiences and coordinate efforts on issues related to bioenergy communication for policy makers, stakeholders and the general public

## Bioenergy Europe's annual Statistical Reports – the leading sources of bioenergy statistics since 2007.

Enhanced Visibility & Sponsorship  
Exclusively for Members

The full reports are free for all Bioenergy Europe members, while non-members can gain a sample version. For more information, please contact Jérémie Geelen.

<https://bioenergyeurope.org/statistical-report.html>

Every year, our members are provided with unique new statistics and findings on 6 specific sectors of bioenergy, namely:



Bioelectricity

Published



Biogas

Published



Bioheat

Published



Pellets

Published



Bioenergy Landscape  
& Biofuels for Transport

Release date: November



Biomass Supply

Release date: November



Sponsored by:



1. ABOUT BIOENERGY EUROPE

2. POLICY DEVELOPMENTS – some, but not all highlights!

3. MARKET TRENDS

4. FINAL MESSAGES AND CONCLUSIONS

# RED EVOLUTION THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

- 1997: Energy for the future: RES indicative target of 12% by 2010.
- 2001: Directive on electricity from renewables: national indicative targets.
- 2003: Directive on biofuels: national targets.
- 2009: RED: EU target of 20% target by 2020 and national binding targets.
- 2018: RED II: 32% renewables by 2030, indicative targets.
- 2021: RED III proposal in Fit for 55 package: 40% renewables by 2030
- 2023: REDIII to be finalized, 42.5% renewables target by 2030



# Why are RED Sustainability criteria so important?



1. To be accounted for **RES-target** and **sectorial sub-targets**
2. To be eligible for **public financial support**
3. To be **zero-rated** in the **EU ETS system**



**Harvesting**  
requirements



**LULUCF**  
requirements



**GHG emissions savings**  
requirements

## EXEMPTIONS (in REDII)

- ▶ **Biomass fuels produced from waste and residues:** only GHG criteria and soil quality requirements for agricultural biomass apply
- ▶ **Small installations** below 20 MW for solid biomass fuels and 2 MW for gaseous biomass fuels of thermal capacity are exempted (but MS may set lower threshold)
- ▶ **Energy efficiency criteria** apply only to large-scale bioelectricity installations (above 50 MW)

# Renewable Energy Directive (REDIII) Timeline



← Post

 **Markus Pieper**  
@markuspieperMEP

#RED3 just reached agreement with Swedish Presidency: 42.5% binding renewable target by 2030. Faster approval processes. Biomass remains 100% renewable. Checking the definition of green hydrogen and much more. A good day for Europe's energy transition.

7:08 AM · Mar 30, 2023 · 30.8K Views



14 July  
2021 EC  
REDIII  
Proposal

6 October  
2022  
First REDIII  
Trilogue

29 March  
2023  
Last REDIII  
Trilogue

9 October  
2023  
Council  
Adoption

*We are here*

December?  
2023  
Entry into  
Force

June? 2025  
Transposition  
Deadline (18  
months after EiF)

18 May 2022  
EC REPowerEU  
Proposal

6 October  
2022  
Emergency  
Measures  
Adopted  
(Expire June  
2024)

19 December  
2022  
REPowerEU  
added to  
REDIII  
Trilogue

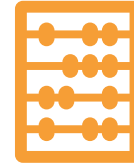
12 September  
2023  
EP Plenary  
Adoption

November?  
2023  
Publication  
in Official  
Journal

1 July 2024  
Transposition  
Deadline for  
Emergency  
Measures



# REDIII: Main Changes



**Lower exemption threshold, covering smaller plants**  
(7.5 MW thermal capacity)



**GHG emissions saving thresholds**  
(All installations will have to reach 80% with a grace-period for existing installations)



**No-Go areas:**  
(Risk-based approach for A-level countries, strictly applied for B-level countries)



**Details on SFM practices**  
(stricter language, explicit references to clear cuts and deadwood extraction)



**Ban on feedstocks**  
(No new definitions, such as primary woody biomass, and no bans)



**Cascading use of biomass**  
(Regulated in the text, allows for exceptions)

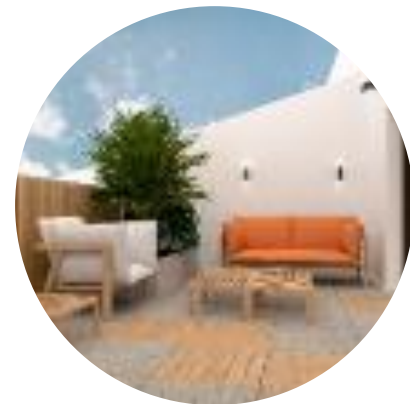


**Ability to provide support**  
(End of subsidies for industrial grade roundwood and stumps and roots, restrictions on new power-only plants using forest-biomass)

# EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)



- Law entered into force **29 June 2023**
- Date for Compliance **24 December 2024 (25 May 2025 for SMEs)**
- Applies to everyone on the EU market (no capacity size restrictions)
- Requires Traceability, Reporting, Due Diligence
- **Requires geolocation of origin, date and time range of production**
- Will not allow for mass balance systems common in sustainability certification
- **Many unanswered questions on implementation, non-compliance, and fines**



# Bioenergy in the Net Zero Industry Act (NZIA)



- Meeting with Commissioner for Internal Market Thierry Breton with delegation of CEOs on 6 June
- Letter with around 400 signatories to include bioenergy as a strategic technology in NZIA
- **Read more and sign the petition here: <https://bioenergyeurope.org/articles/424-open-letter-europe-can-count-on-the-bioenergy-industry-for-its-net-zero-goals.html>**

1. ABOUT BIOENERGY EUROPE

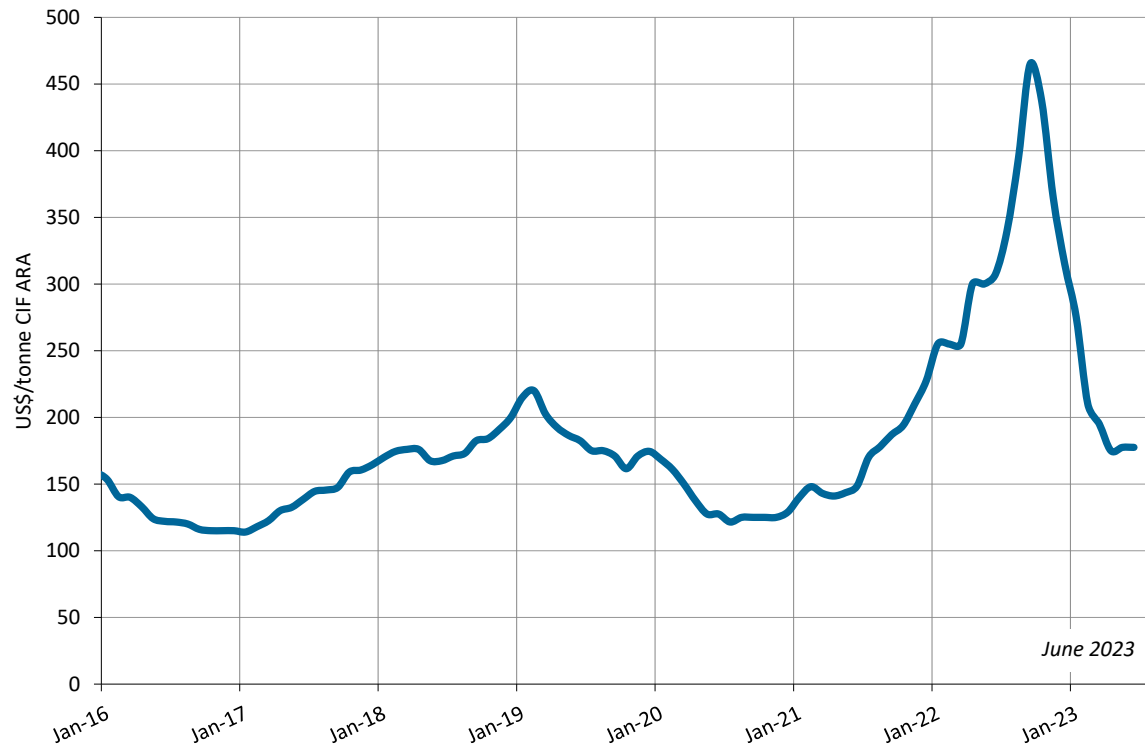
2. POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

3. MARKET TRENDS – mostly about pellets!

4. FINAL MESSAGES AND CONCLUSIONS

# Pellet prices and market trends

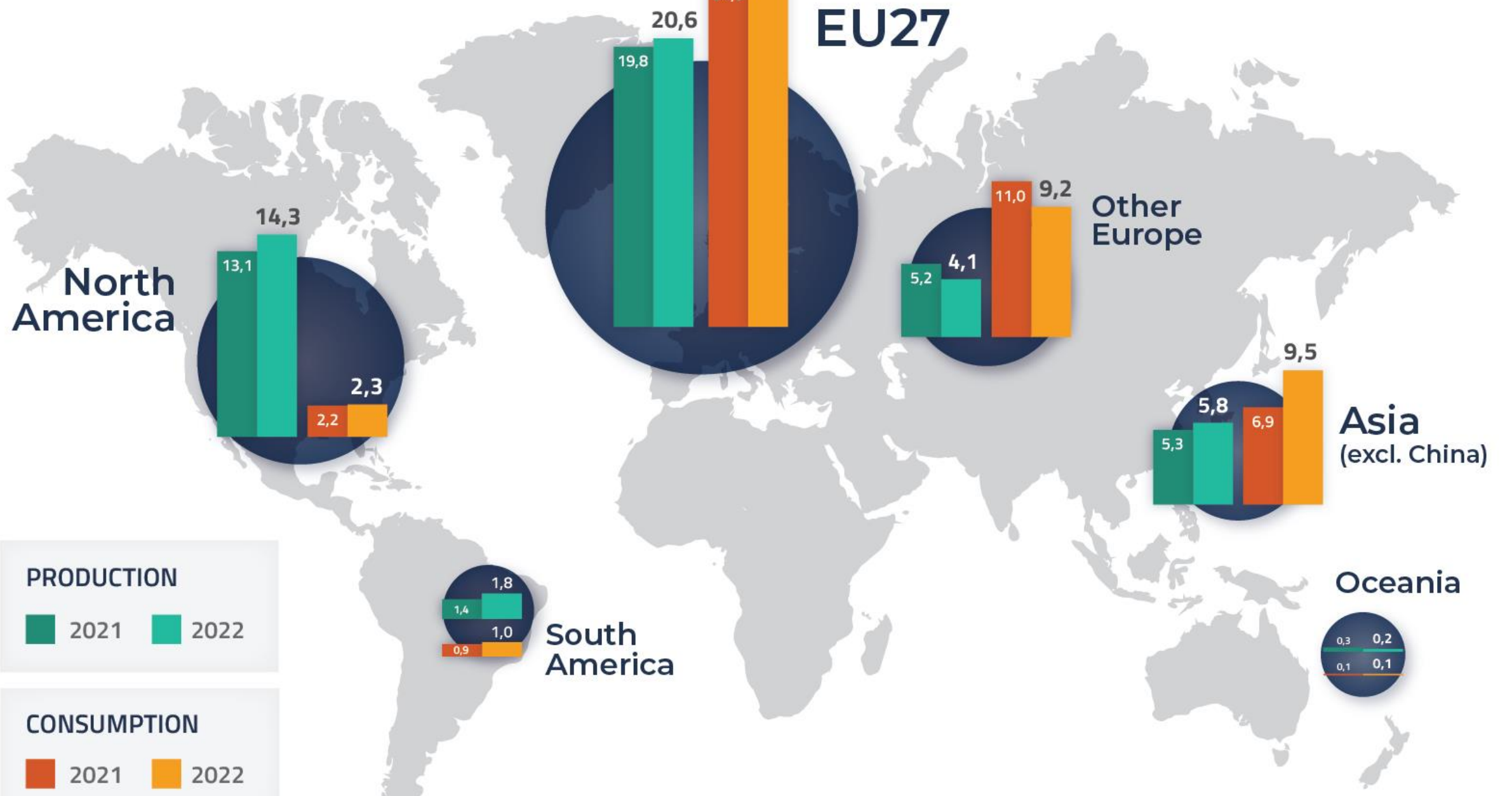
Wood pellet spot prices, \$/t CIF ARA



Source: Hawkins Wright Forest Energy Monitor

- Energy crisis: pellets following trend of other energy commodities, with prices starting to rise in H2 2021
- Trend continues following the Russian invasion of Ukraine
- Suspension of ENplus® certificates for Russian/Belarusian producers as of 15 April 2022
- EU sanctions stopping Russian pellet exports to Europe since July 2022
- Panic buys (especially in residential markets) result in short demand, driving prices still upwards
- Prices reach unprecedented peaks in autumn 2022...
- ... then dropping due to a combination of factors: reduced industrial demand, mild weather, VAT reductions for residential consumers in some member states
- Currently, situation more stable (or "frozen"), with spot prices being somewhat higher than the historical average (rising material costs, inflation, etc.)

# Global pellet production



**PRODUCTION**

■ 2021   ■ 2022

**CONSUMPTION**

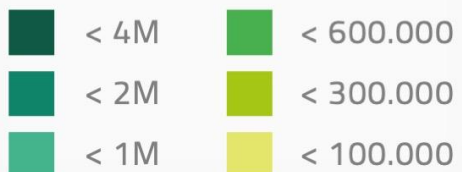
■ 2021   ■ 2022



# European Wood Pellet Production in 2022

Source: EPC survey 2023, Enplus, FAO, Argus Media

## Actual Production (tonnes/year)

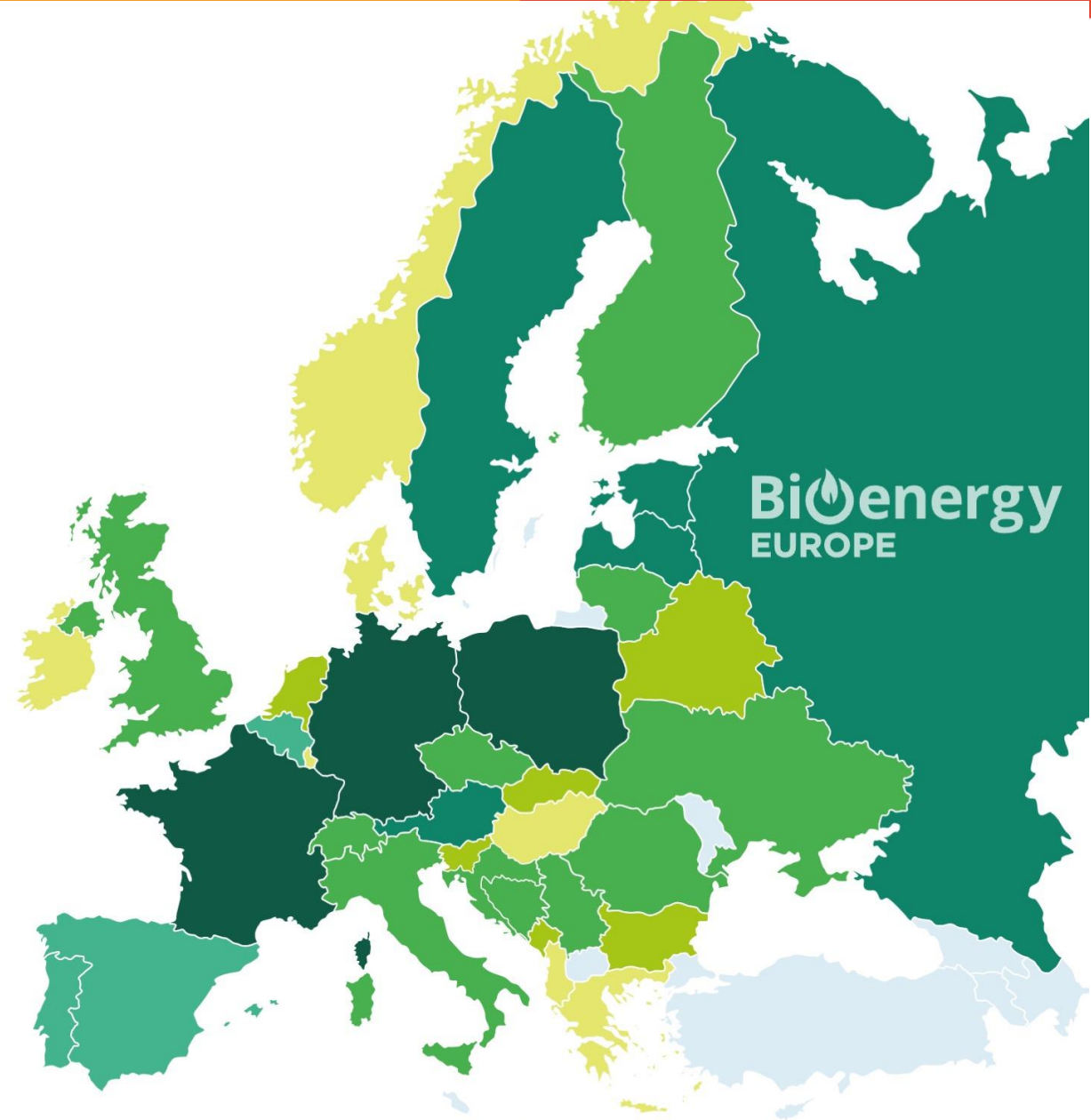
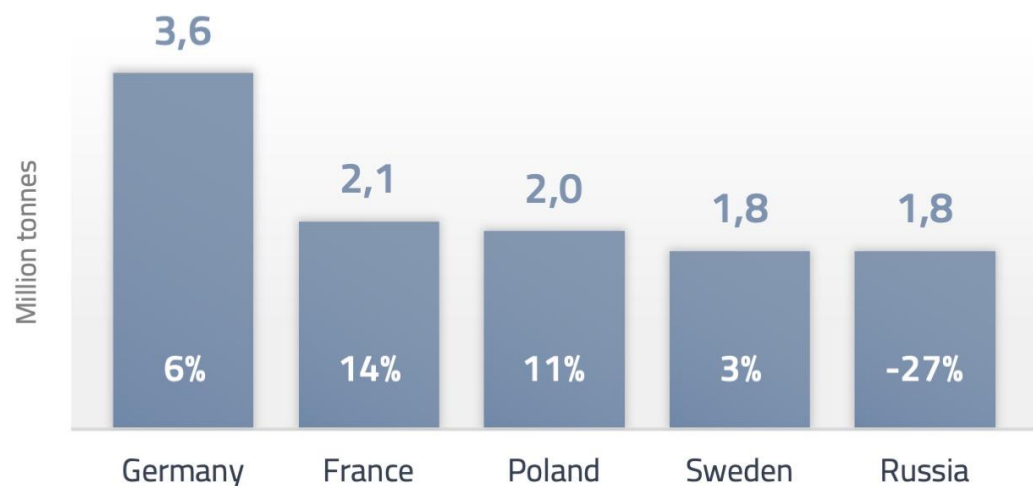


European production **decreased** by **1,6%** between 2021 and 2022

2021 European Production  
**25,1**  
Million tonnes

2022 European Production  
**24,7**  
Million tonnes

## Production in top 5 European countries in 2022



**BiOenergy**  
EUROPE

Annual growth (%) 2021-2022

**BiOenergy**  
EUROPE



BIOENERGY EUROPE  
**STATISTICAL REPORT**  
2023

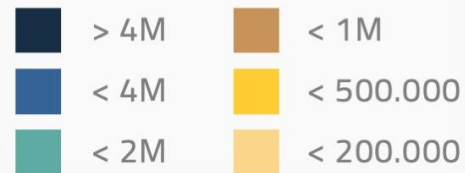


EUROPEAN PELLET  
COUNCIL  
A NETWORK OF  
BIOENERGY EUROPE

# European Wood Pellet Consumption in 2022

Source: EPC survey 2023, Hawkins Wright, Argus Media

## Actual Consumption (tonnes/year)

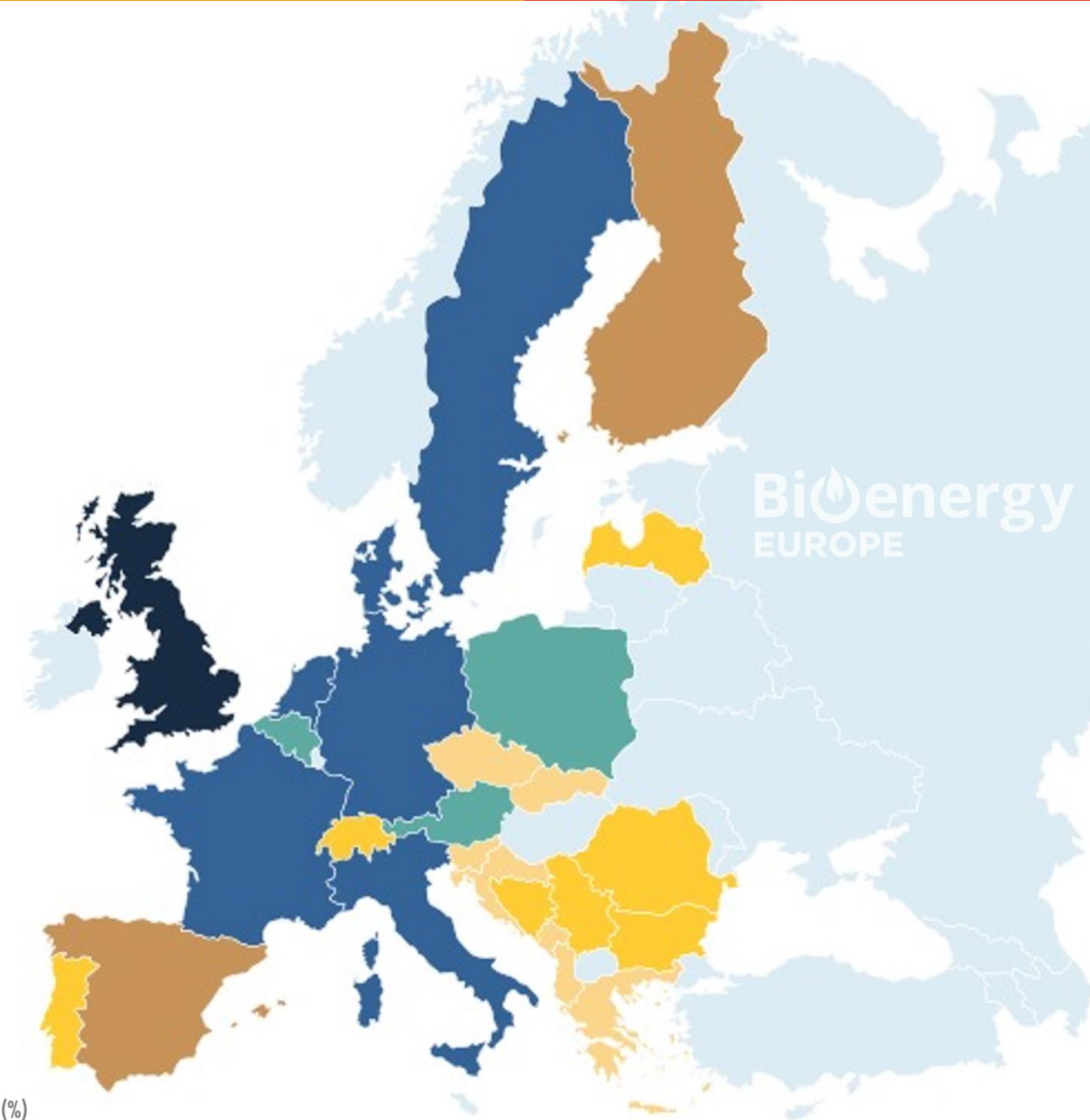


European consumption *decreased* by **6%** between 2021 and 2022

2021 European Consumption  
**35,5**  
Million tonnes

2022 European Consumption  
**33,4**  
Million tonnes

## Consumption in top 5 European countries in 2022



Bienergy EUROPE

Annual growth (%)  
2021-2022

Bienergy EUROPE



BIOENERGY EUROPE  
STATISTICAL  
REPORT  
2023



EUROPEAN PELLET  
COUNCIL  
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BIOENERGY EUROPE

# Residential pellet supply and demand - market situation & trends

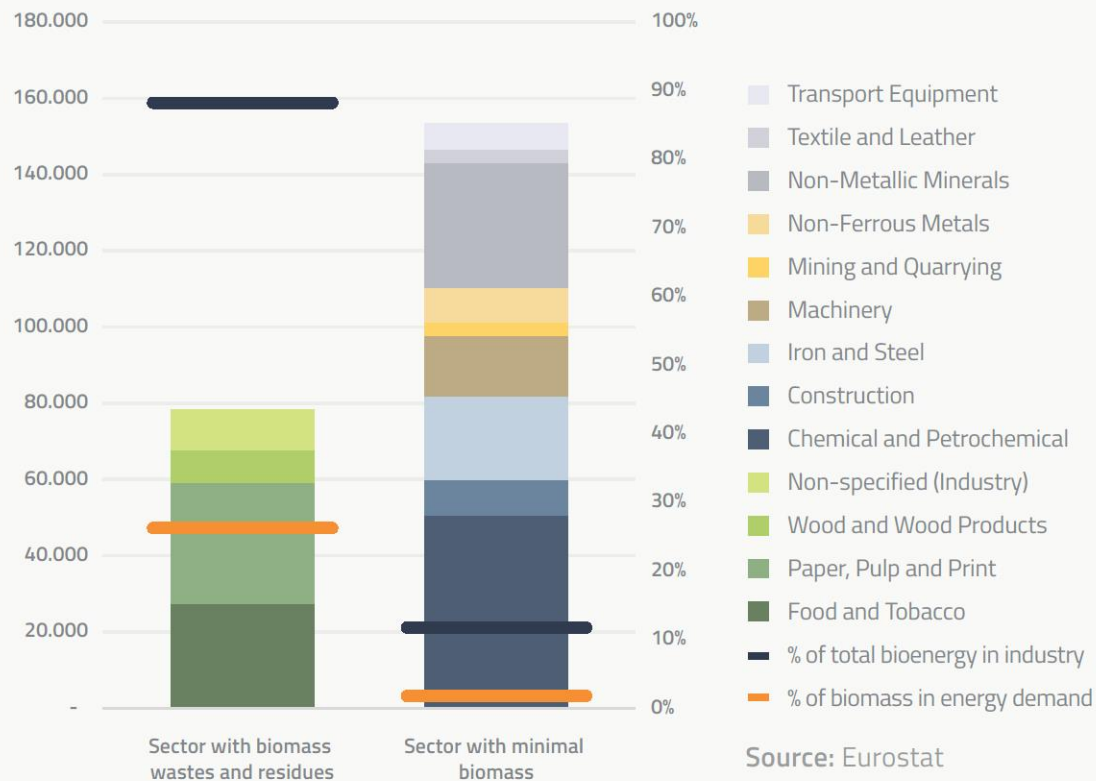
- New pellet production capacity in Europe, primarily geared to residential markets
- Interest of non-EU countries to supply European markets with premium pellets: Turkey, Brazil, China, etc.
- Slowdown in consumption due to very mild weather and accumulated stocks
- Significant reduction of sales of pellet appliances vs. very high numbers of H1 2022 → impact of pellet prices, but also political discussions (German heating law)
- How to regain the trust of consumers?

# Industrial pellet supply and demand - market situation & trends

- European demand destruction in 2022/2023 for several reasons: impact of CfD scheme in UK, mild weather, planned and unplanned outages, possibility of units to use coal in Netherlands, etc.
- Demand expected to start increasing again in H4 2023
- New demand expected to come from MGT Teesside (UK), which is starting commercial operations
- All European utilities are announcing plants for BECCS that will allow them to continue operating beyond 2026/2027
- Asian demand still growing strong, although somewhat suppressed in H1 2023
- Limited industrial capacity growth in Europe, but increases in North America (US) primarily geared for Asian markets
- New market segments attract a lot of attention...

# Bioenergy and Energy consumption in Energy Intensive Industries

Energy demand by industry and share of bioenergy for sectors dealing with biomass wastes and residues and for other sectors in EU27 in 2020 (ktoe and %)



Biomass is a well-established option for wood & food processing industries – but interest in **Energy Intensive Industries and other hard-to-abate sectors is growing**

Quote: [IEA Bioenergy - Bioenergy for High Temperature Heat in Industry](#)

The role that bioenergy plays in the global energy mix has expanded over the last decades, from predominantly domestic space heating and industrial heat until the 1990's to increased use in the electricity sector and more recently also large scale production of transportation fuels. According to the IEA 2DS scenario, the use of biomass to produce high temperature heat in industry will not decrease, but quadruple from 8 EJ today to about 24 EJ in 2060.

Bioenergy Europe, Statistical Report 2022 / Heat

# New prospects for biomass markets

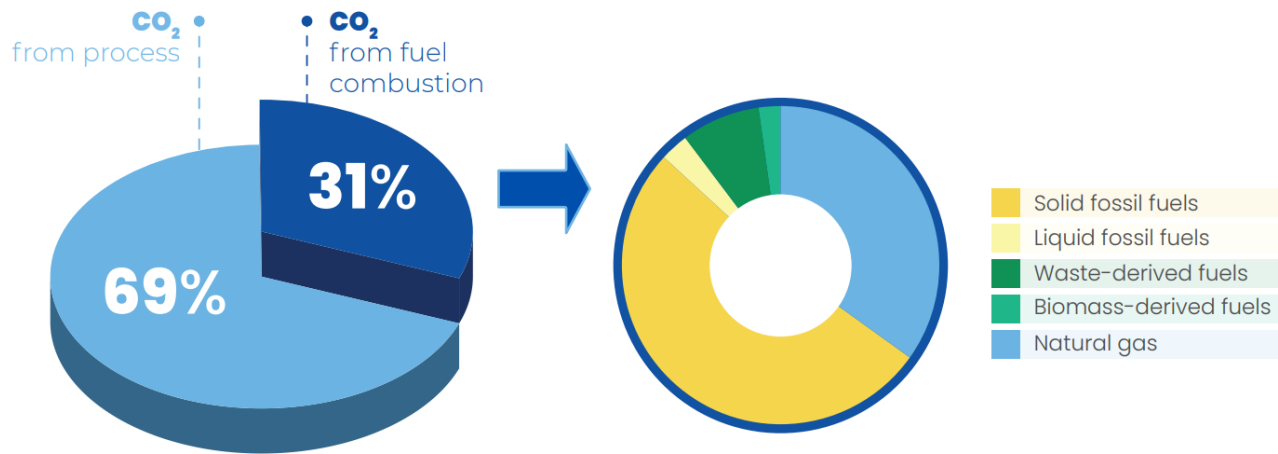
- Cement industry: very high targets for use of alternative fuels – biomass is mostly waste fuels
- Lime industry: interest in biomass fuels reflected both in industry plans & sector roadmaps. Wood pellets and chips are well positioned to support a fuel transition. Movements also in other industrial mineral sectors (e.g. magnesia)
- Steel industry: interest and projects to replace metallurgical coal with thermally treated biomass (torrefaction, biochar).
- Chemical industry: biomass for the production of steam or as a carbon molecule for various products
- Aviation fuels: movements with potentially huge implications for SAF production
- Maritime fuels: some interest, primarily through methanol & pyrolysis oil pathways, but more competition with alternatives there
- Combination with (BE)CCS/U of high interest to such applications



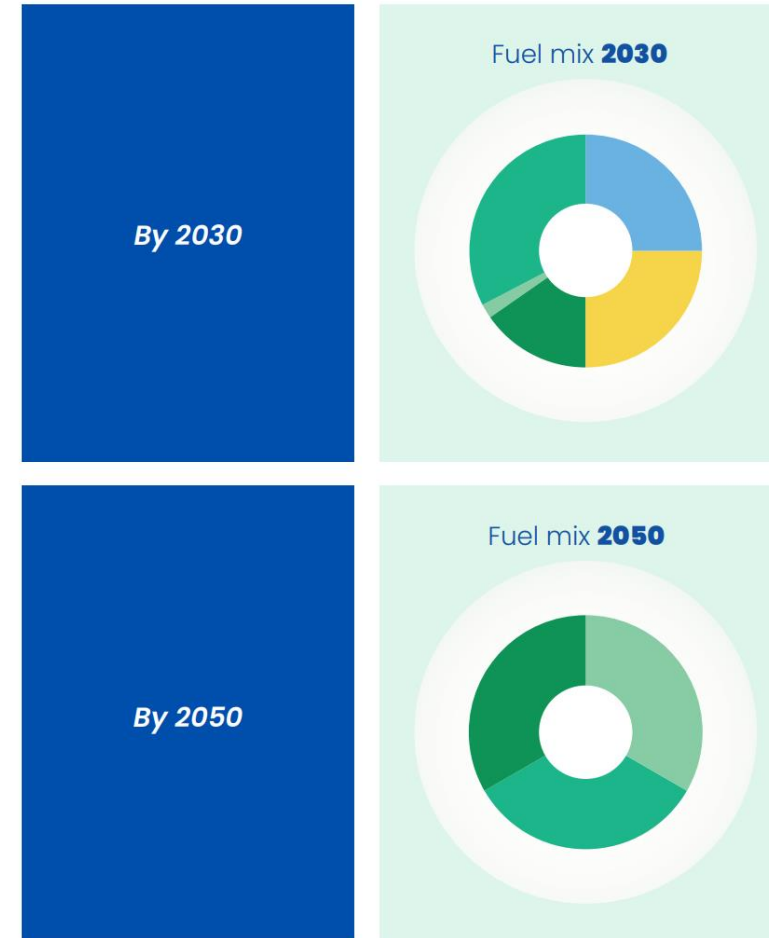
Images: ArcelorMittal – the TORERO & Steelanol projects in the Ghent Steel mill

# Fuel switching in the EU lime industry

## Current situation



**About 1/3 of the fuel demand of the EU lime industry is expected to be covered by biomass fuels by 2030**



Sources EuLA (2023) A PATHWAY TO NEGATIVE CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS BY 2050 - The contribution of the lime industry to a carbon-neutral Europe

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- European biomass markets very much affected by political developments – some (REDIII & biomass sustainability criteria) now hopefully settled
- BECCS → enabler of industrial wood pellet demand in Europe
- Very interesting movements in new market segments: energy intensive industries & SAF
- In the long run, industrial pellet consumption – and hence bulk handling – is more likely to increase than decrease

# North America wood chips to Europe?

- Up to now, limited trade due to high cost of heat phytosanitation
- Sea container phytosanitation → first test shipments arrived in Europe in Aug 2023
- Lower costs, but can handle only smaller volumes → ideal for testing in new production pathways
- Chemical treatment options for bulk transportation under consideration

# European Bioenergy Future

November 2023 at BluePoint Brussels  
28-29: Main conference 30: Technical sessions

Info and Registration:  
[www.bioenergyeurope.org/events/ebf2023](http://www.bioenergyeurope.org/events/ebf2023)

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2023**

Thank you for  
your attention!