



Press Release

ePURE: Impact of ethanol on food prices is massively exaggerated

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Brussels, Today - The European Renewable Ethanol Association (ePURE) rejects claims that ethanol production is driving up food prices: the role of ethanol in food price increases is massively exaggerated. ePURE wants to set the record straight at a time when biofuels production is being blamed for aggravating rising commodity prices linked to a massive drought in the US Midwest that has affected much of the US corn crop.

Careful analysis of agriculture and commodities markets reveals a very complex situation that is not easily described by a simple food v fuel narrative. Quite often key facts are ignored in the debate, which only serves to damage public confidence in those biofuels that are produced sustainably and responsibly, such as European ethanol.

Biofuels production has much more positive effects on the food sector and global agricultural production than negative ones, with raising farm income and improving investment in the farm sector some of many of the benefits¹ as well as the production of important animal feed co-products.

“Global grain use for biofuels is miniscule and nowhere near enough to inflate prices significantly. Singling out biofuels for blame for rising food prices is simply reckless and only serves to damage public confidence in good biofuels”, said Mr. Rob Vierhout, Secretary General of ePURE.

“Europe has enough grain to produce both its food AND fuel needs. Blaming biofuels is the lazy option – if policy makers are serious about addressing food price volatility then they must tackle the fundamental causes of food price inflation such as volatile oil prices, unchecked financial speculation in food commodities markets, and rising levels of food waste. It is truly unbelievable that, while critics continue to blame biofuels for creating a food crisis, last year in Europe we wasted 50% of our food”, added Mr. Vierhout.

Key facts to consider:

- EU grain use for ethanol production is minimal, not enough to affect prices
- Global corn production is historically high and EU wheat production is high, but there is room for improvement
- EU ethanol production does not depend on one crop, like in the US
- EU ethanol is also produced using various non-food materials
- Rising food prices are dictated by a perfect storm of factors, the role of biofuels is minimal
- EU arable land taken out of agricultural production is growing year-on-year
- There is enough food produced but we waste too much of it
- Investment in agriculture is the solution

***Please see the attached fact sheet for further information.**

- Ends -

¹ [UN FAO, 2011.](#)

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