

JOINT REQUEST

Request for Commission priority for guidance on definitions of new feedstocks in RED Annex IX

The Commission Delegated Directive (EU) 2024/1405, adopted on 14 March 2024, amends Annex IX of the Renewable Energy Directive, broadening the scope of feedstocks eligible for Annex IX biofuels production. This includes **intermediate crops** and non-food/feed **crops grown on severely degraded land**.

Expansion of the Annex IX list unlocks new renewable energy production possibilities. The potential availability of aforementioned new feedstocks is significant as stated by the Commission in the report used as the basis for the Annex IX review. However, to fully exploit this potential, more clarity is urgently needed. Clear definitions and sustainability safeguards shaping the potential of aforementioned feedstocks require urgent attention to ensure the Delegated Directive effectively meets its sustainability and decarbonization targets.

The undersigned renewable energy industry associations urge the Commission not to delay the process of providing clear and practical guidance on the definitions of intermediate crops and degraded land in order to unlock their full volume potential and reduce investment uncertainty. These guidelines should be unified and binding for all Voluntary Schemes in order to set transparent rules and prevent different certification procedures.

We call on the Commission to prioritize publishing the guidance as soon as possible. As Member States proceed with the implementation of RED III, including the amendment to Annex IX, the need for clear and practical guidance is critical. Without such clarity, Member States may adopt divergent interpretations, resulting in inconsistent practices and undermining a level playing field in the European Union.

The undersigned look forward to continuing to work closely with the Commission to advance our shared goal of achieving the EU's climate neutrality.

