

Management Report

CENTRAL EUROPEAN BIOMASS CONFERENCE 2005

Graz, June 2005



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Table of Content

1.	Information about the organisers	3
1.1.	Coordinator of the conference	Error! Bookmark not defined.
1.2.	Name and position of the responsible person	3
1.3.	Name and position of the person designated as a project leader	3
2.	Partnership, with a brief description of the participating bodies	3
3.	Objective of the event	4
4.	Realised key figures of the event / timetable.....	5
5.	Description of the factual implementation of the Work Packages	5
5.1.	TASK 1: Project management	5
5.2.	TASK 2: Planning and organisation	6
5.3.	TASK 3: Dissemination and promotion.....	9
5.4.	TASK 4: Running the conference.....	10
5.5.	TASK 5: Evaluation and reporting	12
6.	Follow-up activities.....	15
6.1.	Expert Workshop	15
6.2.	Excursion Service	16
6.3.	International Cooperation.....	16

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1. Information about the organisers

1.1. Coordinator of the conference

Full official name: **Österreichischer Biomasse-Verband**
(Austrian Biomass Association)

Official legal status: **Private Organisation, Non Profit**

Full official address: **A-1010 Wien, Franz Josefs-Kai 13**

1.2. Name and position of the responsible person

Name: Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Heinz Kopetz
Function/position: President
Telephone number (including international codes): 0043 316 8050 1241
Fax number (including international codes): 0043 316 8050 1510
Email address: heinz.kopetz@lk-stmk.at

1.3. Name and position of the person designated as a project leader

Name: Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Horst Jauschnegg
Function/position: Project manager
Telephone number (including international codes): 0043 316 8050 1277
Fax number (including international codes): 0043 316 8050 1507
Email address: horst.jauschnegg@lk-stmk.at

2. Partnership, with a brief description of the participating bodies

The conference was organised by the following team:

- **Österreichischer Biomasse-Verband** (Austrian Biomass Association – ABA)
Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Heinz Kopetz, President of ABA and Director of LK-Stmk
Prof. Dkfm. Ernst Scheiber, Secretary of ABA
Dipl.-Ing. Stephan Grausam, Project Manager
- **Energieverwertungsagentur** (the Austrian Energy Agency – E.V.A.)
Dipl.-Ing. Alice Sedmidubsky, Project Manager
M.A. Elvira Lutter, Project Manager
- **Landeskammer für Land- und Forstwirtschaft Steiermark** (Styrian Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry – LK-Stmk)
Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Horst Jauschnegg, Project Manager and Secretary of the Styrian Biomass Association

ABA was coordinating and managing the project and was responsible for organising the Central European Biomass Conference 2005. E.V.A. and LK-Stmk supported ABA in case of organisation and running of the conference as well as in case of promotion and dissemination activities. A **Project Steering Group** with members from ABA, E.V.A. and LK-Stmk, led by the President of ABA, had been set up, where all important decisions regarding the project were taken.

3. Objective of the event

Target groups

- National decision makers, especially administrations and politicians active in economic, environmental, agricultural, financial and legislation issues
- Industrial decision makers
- Decision makers from energy sector
- Professionals in the RES sector and from RES industry sector
- Energy agencies, biomass associations, farmers associations
- Public and press

Objectives

The overall **objective** of the conference was to **boost biomass** as renewable source of energy in Europe with a special focus on the new EU Member States in **Central and Eastern Europe**.

The Central European Biomass Conference 2005 pursued a three-fold objective:

- make decision makers from policy, administration, industry and energy sector aware of the **state of the art** of the utilisation of biomass as energy carrier
 - in Central and Eastern Europe (share of energy market, targets set by EU, laws and regulations, potentials, barriers),
 - in leading bioenergy countries in Europe (e.g. Austria, Sweden, Finland), presenting advanced bioenergy technologies and driving forces for a successful market evolution;
- point out **strategies** and necessary **political and legal measures** to boost bioenergy in the enlarged European Union, especially in Central and Eastern Europe;
- elaborate concrete **proposals for initiatives** aimed at increasing the acceptance and the share of bioenergy within the energy system in the enlarged European Union.

Means to achieve objectives have been:

- Comprehensive planning, preparation and realisation of the event, including professional PR work and dissemination activities, careful selection of speakers and presentations of the newest developments in biomass technologies and complete secretariat services to ease the participation in the conference.
- A “Call for Papers” has been announced. **Papers** accepted by the selection committee have been **presented orally at the conference** or at the poster presentation and have been published in the proceedings.
- A **panel discussion** with **ministers** respectively high-level representatives from ministries charged with bioenergy affairs have been organised. The Austrian Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, the Environment and Water Management and top-class representatives from the ministries for the environment from Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovak Republic and Slovenia took part. Furthermore Karl Kellner as representative from the European Commission presented EU policy initiatives to boost bioenergy in Europe. As one main result of the conference the “Declaration of Graz” has been stated, encouraging governments to enact laws, facilitating the necessary change to bioenergy.

- During the conference companies, universities and research institutions presented their latest technological developments and results within a **poster presentation**.
- Additionally to the conference itself five **technical tours** have been organised, where successful Austrian bioenergy projects in the sectors heat, electricity and transportation fuels have been presented.
- Five **press conferences** and ten press releases guaranteed a high number of conference participants and increased the awareness regarding bioenergy in the broad public not only during the conference, but also before and after the event.
- Advanced **bioenergy technologies** have also been presented at the “Häuslbauer” **trade fair**, which is one of the leading industrial trade shows in the field of house construction and renewable energy in Austria (35,000 visitors in 2005). This trade fair has been organised by Messe Center Graz at the same time and location as the conference.
- New **initiatives to boost bioenergy** in Central and Eastern Europe have been discussed during a follow-up workshop of the conference with presidents of national biomass associations and bioenergy experts from these countries.

4. Realised key figures of the event / timetable

Event venue:	Messe Center Graz, A-8010 Graz, Austria
Number of participants:	920 from 28 countries worldwide
Date and duration of the event:	January 26th – 29th, 2005 1st day: 2 technical tours 2nd and 3rd day: conference programme 4th day: 3 technical tours
Conference languages:	German, English, Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Slovenian (simultaneous translation)
Languages for technical tours:	German, English

5. Description of the factual implementation of the Work Packages

5.1. TASK 1: Project management

Leader of this Task: ABA

Activities:

- Project Steering Group
- Financial coordination of EIE and national funds, financial report
- Final report on the implementation of the operation and the results obtained

Project Steering Group

Heinz Kopetz, president of **ABA** has led the Project Steering Group, where all important decisions regarding the conference have been taken. **E.V.A.** and **LK-Stmk** have sent delegates into the Project Steering Group.

The members of the Project Steering Group have been:

- Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Heinz Kopetz, President of ABA and director of LK-Stmk
- Prof.-Dkfm. Ernst Scheiber, Secretary of ABA
- Dipl.-Ing. Josef Plank, Head of Bioenergy Department of LK-Stmk and Vice-Secretary of ABA
- Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Horst Jauschnegg, Project Manger of LK-Stmk and Secretary of the Styrian Biomass Association
- Dipl.-Ing. Stephan Grausam, Project Manager of ABA
- Dipl.-Ing. Alice Sedmidubsky, Project Manager of E.V.A.
- M.A. Elvira Lutter, Project Manager of E.V.A.

Horst Jauschnegg from LK-Stmk was the project leader responsible for all organisational tasks. The Project Steering Group has had five meetings. Additionally the project leader has had regular meetings with the leader of the Project Steering Group as well as different meetings with other members of the Project Steering Group to discuss organisational tasks.

Financial coordination and reporting

ABA collected administrative, financial and technical information and prepared the financial report and the final report for the European Commission. E.V.A. and LK-Stmk provided ABA with necessary financial and technical information.

5.2. TASK 2: Planning and organisation

Leader of this Task: ABA

Activities:

- Draft of key figures of the conference including timetable
- Organisation of infrastructure requirements (event venue, simultaneous translation, accommodation, etc.)
- Call for papers
- Organisation of panel discussion and invitation of ministers and EU representatives
- Selection of papers by selection committee
- Planning of conference programme and information of speakers
- Preparation of invitations including conference programme and registration details
- Organisation of registration, payment and cancellation procedure for participants
- Organisation of poster presentation
- Planning and organisation of technical tours
- Organisation of social programme
- Preparation of proceedings

Role of each partner body:

ABA have led and carried out together with **LK-Stmk** and **E.V.A.** all activities of task 2 respecting decisions made by the Project Steering Group.

Draft of key figures of the conference

It was decided to organise the Central European Biomass Conference together with the annually “Häuslbauer” trade fair in Graz, because that fair is one of the leading industrial trade shows in the field of house construction and renewable energy in Austria (35,000 visitors in 2005). Therefore the date 26-29 January 2005 and the location Messecenter Graz have been chosen.

Organisation of infrastructure requirements

During the planning phase of the conference about 500 participants have been expected. So the conference facilities of Messecenter Graz have been chosen as location for the conference. The main conference room for maximal 650 participants, a second room for 250 participants (for parallel sessions) as well as smaller rooms for the conference office, for press conferences and a special office for the press (with internet, e-mail, fax, telephone, photocopier) have been reserved. One week before the conference more than 900 participants had already registered for the conference. So there had to be found a solution that all participants could follow the plenary sessions, although there was only space for 650 participants in the main conference room. At the end this problem was solved with a video transmission from the main conference room to the second conference room.

Simultaneous translation have been organised for six languages (German, English, Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Slovenian) to guarantee a high number of participants from the new EU Member States – not only experts (researchers etc.) speaking English, but also politicians, decision makers and practitioners not understanding English.

All organisational tasks concerning accommodation of conference participants and speakers have been managed by Graztourismus, the tourism organisation of the city of Graz.

Call for papers and selection of papers

A call for papers had been made. Abstracts were invited on the following topics:

- Strategies, legislation, interrelation between agricultural, energy and ecological policy
- Financing instruments and support schemes
- Biomass resources, potentials, markets and market research
- Biomass production – organisational aspects, technology, costs and quality standards
- Heat, electricity and transportation fuels from biomass – R&D, technological innovations, organisational models, costs and quality standards
- Information, communication, dissemination

In total 86 papers have been submitted. The following committee has evaluated and selected the papers:

- Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Heinz Kopetz, Austrian Biomass Association and AEBIOM (Austria)
- Dipl.-Ing. Josef Plank, Austrian Biomass Association (Austria)
- Marino Berton, ITEBE and Associazione Italiana Energia dal Legno (France/Italy)
- Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Erich Fercher, Austrian Bioenergy Center (Austria)
- Dipl.-Ing. Werner Körbitz, Austrian Biofuels Institute (Austria)
- Dipl.-Ing. Kasimir Nemestothy, Austrian Energy Agency (Austria)
- Prof. Univ.-Doz. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Ingwald Obernberger, Graz University of Technology (Austria)
- Dipl.-Ing. Johannes Schmidl, Austrian Energy Agency (Austria)
- Mag. Martina Sumenjak, Slovenian Biomass Association (Slovenia)
- Dipl.-Ing. Manfred Wörgetter, Federal Institute of Agricultural Engineering (Austria)

Planning of conference programme

It was intended to have a good mixture between a global overview on European level and special tasks from different countries and different bioenergy sectors. Therefore three plenary sessions with global overviews, strategies, policy issues and market developments as well as the following parallel sessions have been planned:

- Parallel Session I: Raw material supply
- Parallel Session II: Heat from biomass
- Parallel Session III: Power and Heat from biomass
- Parallel Session IV: Biofuels

Registration and payment

Registration was possible by internet, e-mail, fax or mail. The possibility to register for the conference had to be closed one week before the start of the conference, because of the limited room capacity at Messecenter Graz. For the final registration at the conference – where the participants got their conference tickets, conference bags, proceedings and CD-Rom – six registration desks were opened from 26 January (7 a.m.) to 28 January (7 p.m.).

The participation fee was as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| ▪ Biomass Conference (2 days) | 60 Euro |
| ▪ Biomass Conference (1 day) | 40 Euro |
| ▪ Excursion I, III, IV, V | 40 Euro |
| ▪ Excursion II | 15 Euro |
| ▪ Sightseeing tour | 10 Euro |
| ▪ Lunch on 27/1/2005 | 20 Euro |
| ▪ Lunch on 28/1/2005 | 20 Euro |
| ▪ Conference Dinner | 35 Euro |

For students coming from new EU Member States the participation fee was reduced:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| ▪ Biomass Conference (2 days) | 20 Euro |
| ▪ Biomass Conference (1 day) | 12 Euro |
| ▪ Excursion I, III, IV, V | 12 Euro |
| ▪ Excursion II | 5 Euro |
| ▪ Lunch on 27/1/2005 | 6 Euro |
| ▪ Lunch on 28/1/2005 | 6 Euro |
| ▪ Conference Dinner | 12 Euro |

The participation fee included beverages and rolls at coffee breaks and attendance at the evening reception on Friday, 28 January 2005 as well as a free entry to the “Häuslbauer” trade fair.

The participation fee could be remitted before the conference or paid directly at the conference.

Organisation of poster presentation

Submitted papers which had been proposed for the poster presentation by the evaluators were invited to present a poster at the conference. The poster presentation was organised directly in front of the conference rooms to guarantee high attention by the participants of the conference. In total 24 posters have been presented.

Organisation of technical tours

4 technical tours had been planned. However, because of the enormous interest a 5th technical tour was organised one day before the start of the conference. So, in total 5 technical tours have been organised. The main tasks of the technical tours have been:

- Pellet production
- Woodchips, logwood and pellet heating systems

- Wine cooling with biomass and solar energy
- Biomass district heating
- Wood energy contracting
- Biodiesel production
- CHP based on biogas
- Biomass CHP based on ORC process
- Biomass CHP based on gasification process

Organisation of social programme

The following social programme have been organised:

- Conference Dinner on 27 January 2005
- Evening reception on 28 January 2005
- Sightseeing tour in Graz on 29 January 2005

Proceedings

Conference proceedings for each participant have been produced as CD-Rom and in paper version.

5.3. TASK 3: Dissemination and promotion

Leader of this Task: ABA

Activities:

- Elaboration of a media communication strategy
- Dissemination of announcement & call for papers
- Dissemination of invitation with final conference programme
- Press releases and advertisements in selected RE magazines and on the conference web site.
- Organisation of press conferences

Role of each partner body:

ABA elaborated a media communication strategy and sent out announcement & call for papers and invitations with final conference programme by post and e-mail. AEBIOM and its members (28 national biomass associations) supported ABA in dissemination and promotion activities. Furthermore ABA promoted the conference in its magazine “Ökoenergie” and other newspapers and magazines at national and international level (e.g. Bioenergy international, Renewable Energy, ITEBE newsletter). The conference has been announced on ABA’s homepage (www.biomasseverband.at, www.oesfo.at) and on further homepages (e.g. www.managenergy.net, www.cordis.lu/wire, www.itebe.org, www.eva.ac.at, www.shk.at, www.messecentergraz.at, etc.). Information has also been disseminated by the local offices of the Foreign Trade Organisation of the Austrian Federal Economic Professionals in European countries. Furthermore ABA organised 3 press conferences in Austria, Hungary and Slovenia and published 10 press releases.

E.V.A. is member of important European networks and promoted continuously the conference through these networks (e.g. enerCEE - Energy in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), European Energy Network (EnR), etc.). E.V.A. also promoted the conference through its magazine “energy” as well as its enerCEE e-mail newsletter and on its internet homepage (www.eva.ac.at).

LK-Stmk. promoted the conference on the internet homepages (www.lk-stmk.at and www.agrar-net.at) and through its newspaper “Landwirtschaftliche Mitteilungen”.

5.4. TASK 4: Running the conference

Leader of this Task: ABA

Activities:

- Conference office
- Technical tours
- Plenary sessions and parallel sessions
- Panel discussion
- Poster presentation
- Press conferences
- Social programme

Role of each partner body:

ABA have led and carried out together with **LK-Stmk** and **E.V.A.** all activities of task 4 respecting decisions made by the Project Steering Group.

The following team have been working during the conference to guarantee a trouble-free running of the Central European Biomass Conference:

Managing Committee

- Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Heinz Kopetz, President of ABA, Director of LK-Stmk, Vice-President of AEBIOM and Leader of the Project Steering Group
- Prof. Dkfm. Ernst Scheiber, Secretary of ABA
- Dipl.-Ing. Josef Plank, Head of Bioenergy Department of LK-Stmk and Vice-Secretary of ABA

Organisational Team

- Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Horst Jauschnegg (LK-Stmk), Leader of the organisational team
- Dipl.-Ing. Stephan Grausam (ABA), Vice-Leader of the organisational team

Conference Office

- Karin Muzak (ABA)
- Ingrid Harb (LK-Stmk)

Information Desk

- Mag. Verena Mayr (LK-Stmk)
- Mag. Christiana Taurer (LK-Stmk)

Registration Desk

- Barbara Moik (LK-Stmk)
- Claudia Heußerer (LK-Stmk)
- Ewa Charzewska (ABA)
- Karin Rehak (external, PRÄKO)
- Sabine Samel-Holzer (external, PRÄKO)
- Dipl.-Ing. Dajana Brajan-Treitler (external, LFI)
- Antal Elek (external)
- Anja Grauf (external)
- Barbara Fuchsberger (external, LFI)

- Theresia Feldhofer (LK-Stmk)
- Mag. Dietmar Moser (LK-Stmk)

Press Office

- Dipl.-Ing. Doris Hofbauer (ABA)
- Mag. Rosemarie Wilhelm (LK-Stmk)

Welcoming Committee for Guests of Honour

- Dipl.-Ing. Winfried Eberl (LK-Stmk)
- Dipl.-Ing. Hannes Stelzl (LK-Stmk)
- Dipl.-Ing. Josef Plank (LK-Stmk)

Chairpersons for Conference Sessions

- Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Heinz Kopetz (ABA)
- Dipl.-Ing. Kasimir Nemestothy (E.V.A.)
- Univ.-Doz. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Ingwald Obernberger (external, Graz Technical University)
- Frederic Douard (external, ITEBE)
- Univ.-Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Josef Spitzer (external, Joanneum Research)
- Dipl.-Ing. Manfred Wörgetter (external, Federal Institute of Agricultural Engineering)
- Prof. Dan Asplund (external, AEBIOM)

EDV-Service for Speakers

- Dipl.-Ing. Roland Walner (ABA)
- Michael Kern (LK-Stmk)

Photographers

- Franz Kern (LK-Stmk)
- Klaus Perscha (LK-Stmk)

Admission Control to Conference Rooms

- Josef Janosch (LK-Stmk)
- Brigitte Paschinger (LK-Stmk)
- Barbara Herneth (LK-Stmk)
- Waltraud Schallerl (LK-Stmk)

Microphone Services in Conference Rooms

- Ulrike Schister (external, LFI)
- Heike Niederl (LK-Stmk)
- Elisabeth Niss (LK-Stmk)
- Birgit Schober (LK-Stmk)

Transfer Service for Key-Speakers (Airport – Conference-Center)

- Josef Sauseng (LK-Stmk)

Services for Poster Presentation

- Dipl.-Ing. Stephan Grausam (ABA)

Leading Technical Tours

- Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Heinz Kopetz (ABA)
- Dipl.-Ing. Josef Plank (LK-Stmk)
- Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Horst Jauschnegg (LK-Stmk)
- Dipl.-Ing. Alice Sedmidubsky (E.V.A.)
- Dipl.-Ing. Franz Moser (external, Bioenergie Service GmbH)
- Ing. Robert Glettler (external, Regionalenergie Steiermark)

Sightseeing Tour

- Graztourismus GmbH

Speakers

In total 55 speakers from 12 countries have had a presentation or speech at the Central European Biomass Conference 2005 in Graz. The speakers came from the following countries:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| ▪ Austria | ▪ Finland | ▪ Slovak Republic |
| ▪ Belgium/European Union | ▪ Germany | ▪ Slovenia |
| ▪ Czech Republic | ▪ Hungary | ▪ Sweden |
| ▪ Croatia | ▪ Poland | ▪ USA |

Participants

In total 920 participants from 28 countries worldwide attended at the Central European Biomass Conference 2005 in Graz.

The participants came from the following countries:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| ▪ Albania | ▪ Greece | ▪ Slovak Republic |
| ▪ Austria | ▪ Hungary | ▪ Slovenia |
| ▪ Belgium/European Union | ▪ Italy | ▪ South Korea |
| ▪ Croatia | ▪ Latvia | ▪ Sweden |
| ▪ Czech Republic | ▪ Lithuania | ▪ The Netherlands |
| ▪ Denmark | ▪ Norway | ▪ Ukraine |
| ▪ Estonia | ▪ Poland | ▪ United Kingdom |
| ▪ Finland | ▪ Portugal | ▪ USA |
| ▪ France | ▪ Russia | |
| ▪ Germany | ▪ Serbia | |

5.5. TASK 5: Evaluation and reporting

Leader of this Task: ABA

Activities:

- Evaluation of conference
- Reporting of main conference results in media

Role of each partner body:

ABA prepared an evaluation form and evaluated the feedback of participants on targets, topics and results of the conference as well as organisational details. Furthermore a section regarding future market prospects for bioenergy (national/EU-25) has been included in the evaluation form. The participants have been asked to fill in the evaluation form during the conference. 80 participants returned the questionnaires (9 % of participants). The results of the evaluation are described in the following:

Evaluation of the conference

Question 1: How did you hear or learn about this conference?

- invitation per mail: 39 %
- invitation per e-mail: 22 %
- internet site: 9 %
- newspaper, magazine: 19 %
- others: 11 %

Question 2: Did the conference fulfil your reason for attending?

- yes, absolutely: 73 %
- yes, but not to my full extent: 27 %
- no: 0 %

Question 3: What was the most beneficial aspect of the conference?

- policy analysis on EU level
- state-of-the-art
- combination of theoretical and practical parts
- contacts, especially to participants from new EU Member States
- new technologies e.g. sun diesel, cooling, gasification
- impressive excursions
- combination of a lot of different topics in one conference
- networking
- including of new EU Member States
- good overview, but also interesting details (good mixture)
- contacts to participants with a lot of practical experience (planters, operators of biomass plants)
- outlook on future developments on oil and gas markets
- ecological aspects
- good mixture between global and project oriented topics
- biogas fuel cell
- to realise, that economy is very important
- overview on different activities in Europe
- experiences from other countries
- information on biogas
- practical experiences
- information on EU Directives
- broad spectrum on ideas, outlooks and critical points of view
- to meet experts from the whole of Central Europe
- information transfer
- sessions on heat and biofuels
- discussions with competent experts

Question 4: Would you recommend this conference to others?

- yes, absolutely: 96 %
- maybe: 4 %
- no: 0 %

Question 5: Please indicate your overall satisfaction with this conference?

a) Conference content

- very satisfied: 60 %*
- somewhat satisfied: 26 %
- neutral: 12 %
- somewhat dissatisfied: 3 %
- very dissatisfied: 0 %

b) Excursions

- very satisfied: 74 %
- somewhat satisfied: 9 %
- neutral: 14 %
- somewhat dissatisfied: 3 %
- very dissatisfied: 0 %

c) Registration process

- very satisfied: 87 %
- somewhat satisfied: 6 %
- neutral: 6 %
- somewhat dissatisfied: 0 %
- very dissatisfied: 0 %

d) Conference venue

- very satisfied: 79 %
- somewhat satisfied: 12 %
- neutral: 5 %
- somewhat dissatisfied: 3 %
- very dissatisfied: 1 %

e) Food & beverage

- very satisfied: 62 %
- somewhat satisfied: 18 %
- neutral: 11 %
- somewhat dissatisfied: 6 %
- very dissatisfied: 3 %

f) Social programme

- very satisfied: 51 %
- somewhat satisfied: 15 %
- neutral: 33 %
- somewhat dissatisfied: 0 %
- very dissatisfied: 0 %

Question 6: Shall the Central European Biomass Conference be organised periodically?

- yes: 83 %
- maybe: 16 %
- no: 1 %

Question 7: What do you think about the further market prospects for bioenergy?

a) How much will the bioenergy market grow in Europe by 2010?

- < 20 %: 23 %
- 20-50 %: 49 %
- 51-100 %: 21 %
- 101-200 %: 5 %
- > 200 %: 1 %

b) How much will the bioenergy market grow in your country by 2010?

- < 20 %: 36 %
- 20-50 %: 31 %
- 51-100 %: 21 %
- 101-200 %: 10 %
- > 200 %: 3 %

c) In which sector will bioenergy have the best chances in your country?

- heat: 55 %
- electricity: 32 %
- transportation fuels: 13 %

Question 8: Are you planning initiatives to boost bioenergy?

a) At local level

- yes: 68 %
- maybe: 20 %
- no: 12 %

b) At national level

- yes: 44 %
- maybe: 25 %
- no: 31 %

c) At international level

- yes: 32 %
- maybe: 27 %
- no: 41 %

Question 9: Are you interested to participate in future EU funded bioenergy projects?

- yes: 71 %
- maybe: 19 %
- no: 10 %

Reporting of main conference results in media

In addition to the final report for the European Commission **ABA** also reported on main conference results and further initiatives in media (e.g. newspapers, magazines like “Ökoenergie”, Bioenergy International, newsletters like ITEBE newsletter) and on its internet homepage (www.oesfo.at). ABA also organized two press conferences during the conference. All press releases and information from press conferences can be downloaded at www.oesfo.at.

6. Follow-up activities

6.1. Expert Workshop

The Austrian Biomass Association organised an expert workshop “Central European Biomass Conference 2005 – Results and Follow-up activities” on 23 May 2005 in Vienna. In total 19 experts from Austria, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Hungary and Slovenia

participated. The press release with the results of the workshop can be downloaded at www.oesfo.at.

The agenda of the workshop has been:

- Central European Biomass Conference 2005 – Discussion on results and follow-up activities
- Proposals for the EU Biomass Action Plan
- Further Central European Biomass Conferences
- Training courses for plumbers and chimney sweeps in Austria
- Ideas for new EU-funded bioenergy projects

6.2. Excursion Service

ABA offers in cooperation with LK-Stmk a special excursion service for decision makers, companies and organisations from new EU Member States to show them the state of the art of bioenergy technologies and new developments in Austria.

The first two groups with decision makers from Romania have visited different bioenergy projects in Styria (Austria) in the second week of June. Additionally there have been organised meetings with Gerald Schöpfer, the Styrian Minister of Economy and Europe, and Heinz Kopetz, the President of the Austrian Biomass Association and Vice-President of the European Biomass Association.

6.3. International Cooperation

ABA started closer cooperation with partners from new EU Member States to submit common proposals for EU-funded projects to boost the development of bioenergy in new Member States.

Horst Jauschnegg (LK-Stmk) have been discussing possibilities for cooperation and presenting the latest Austrian bioenergy developments at two conferences in the Slovak Republic in February and March as well as during three meetings with experts from the Ministry of Agriculture in Romania in April.

LK-Stmk submitted a EIE-proposal “AGRIFOREENERGY” in March with partners from Slovenia, Slovak Republic, Romania and Italy.