

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 27 January 2015

INTRODUCTION OF B8 DIESEL IN FRANCE

The Union of European Petroleum Independents (UPEI) represents the independent downstream oil sector, principally SMEs whose main business is to source and supply oil and other energy products in Europe.

UPEI wishes to raise its concern at the measures introduced by the French Government by Ministerial Order of 3 January 2015.

By this Ministerial Order, the specification for diesel sold in France has been modified to increase the level of FAME (Fatty Acid Methyl Ester) to a maximum of 8% by volume. This is not in conformity with the existing EU standards and specifications for diesel fuel EN590 which set the maximum FAME content at 7% and are designed to ensure coherence throughout Europe, guaranteeing consumer protection.

This unilateral approach undermines the principles of the EU's internal market and poses serious challenges and increases costs in the supply chain due to the resulting proliferation of diesel grades. It will also pose a threat to consumers purchasing diesel in France, given that vehicle warranties generally refer to the EN590 standard for diesel which foresees a maximum of 7% FAME content.

Nevertheless, the challenge remains of how to meet the EU's target of 10% renewable fuels in transport by 2020. UPEI calls for further coordinated efforts by all relevant parties, including the automobile industry, to facilitate the meeting of the 10% target and ensure that biofuels, as an alternative to fossil fuels in transport, reach their full potential. In this respect, the barriers that are created by the lack of harmonisation between Member States in their implementation of EU biofuels should be tackled, to ensure compatible legislation and standards throughout the EU.

UPEI Contact:
Yvonne Stausbøll, Secretary General
info@upei.org