

Motions

Motion number	10
Name of the person introducing the Motion to the GA	Marco di Bari
Member party	Comitato Libertà Toscana
Title [of the Motion]	Biomass power plants
<p>Considering:</p> <p>that the issue of plant biomass is linked to key issues for the sustainability of our society and our planet, such as environmental conservation and protection, ecosystem services, greenhouse gas emissions;</p> <p>that 48% of the woody material used in the European Union is used for energy purposes;</p> <p>that the use of plant biomass can be considered "zero emission" only if the quantities burned annually in a territory are less than the quantity of biomass that the territory itself produces in a year, which is not the case in countries such as Italy;</p> <p>that the use of vegetable biomass as an energy source releases 390 kg of CO₂ into the atmosphere for each Megawatt hour produced (more than the 350 kg per Megawatt hour released by burning coal, the 270 kg released by burning gas oil and the 200 kg released by burning methane) and that 9% of all EU emissions are due to the combustion of vegetable biomasses;</p> <p>that even if biomass for energy purposes is used in a renewable way, i.e. in quantities less than what the territory produces annually, its use leads to a lack of carbon storage;</p> <p>that in order to reverse the trend of CO₂ emissions, it is necessary to intervene not only by reducing emissions, but also by increasing carbon storage, and that plants contribute to this through their net production (given by the carbon fixed through photosynthesis minus that used for respiration);</p> <p>that biomass power stations emit greater quantities of particulate matter than those emitted by burning methane but also fuels or other hydrocarbons;</p> <p>that when plant biomass is used for energy purposes in territories and countries far away from the place of production, the above-mentioned impacts are compounded by the impacts of transport, which involves additional energy consumption, often by lorries burning fossil fuels, and that therefore a "zero kilometre" approach reduces these additional impacts;</p> <p>that there is a very high lack of transparency in the current supply chains for the use of wood material, to the point that 60% of the material burned in Italy (equivalent to about 28 million cubic metres per year) is of uncertain origin, as emerged at a major conference on the subject ("Woody biomass, opportunity or problem for climate mitigation");</p>	

that the profitability of many biomass power plants is based on incentives [this is the case of the Mercure power plant in Pollino, which in 2016 received €39 million from public incentives out of a total profitability of €49 million].

The European Free Alliance asks the European Union

- 1) To amend its directives on biomass in order to encourage the management of plant-based products in such a way as to ensure maximum carbon storage (building material, woodchips and compost, and plant necromass in forests).
- 2) That the use of plant biomass for energy purposes be considered ecological only when this use is residual, takes place close to the places where the material is produced and management of the kind listed in point 1 is difficult.
- 3) The gradual but rapid abolition of subsidies for the energetic use of biomass.