

Ms Connie Hedegaard
Member of the European Commission
European Commission
200, rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels

Brussels, 2 July 2010

Re: Fuel Quality Directive and tar sands

Dear Commissioner Hedegaard,

Thank you for your recent meeting with some of us to discuss the implementing provisions for the FQD and in particular the situation for tar sands and other unconventional fossil fuels. You agreed to raise the issue with your services and we were encouraged to hear from Philip Owen at the Environment Committee last week that the reinstatement of a specific default value for tar sands was still being considered.

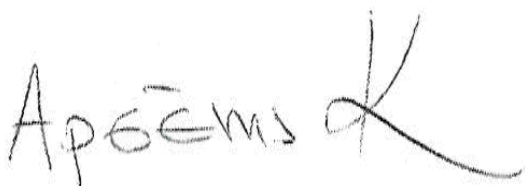
Specific default values are still proposed for other unconventional fossil fuels such as coal-to-liquids and gas-to-liquids, but presently there is no default value for tar sands. In the absence of such a value, tar sands will be treated in the same manner as petrol or diesel which have much lower default GHG values (85.8 CO_{2e}/MJ and 87.4 CO_{2e}/MJ respectively). Therefore oil from tar sands will be favored in the EU market and uncertainty over the actual GHG savings from FQD will increase.

In its 2009 consultation document on the implementation of Article 7a (5) of the FQD, the European Commission did introduce a value for tar sands, namely 107 CO_{2e}/MJ, which was later dropped. The EC defended its action arguing that this value was based solely on one study and there is substantial lack of relevant data. This conclusion is unsupported, failing to consider 12 scientific studies which provide a value very close to the one proposed by the EC. These have been summarized in an NRDC literature review.

We understand that you are working towards a consistent way to assess the GHG emissions from all unconventional fuels, and we hope that this issue will be properly addressed. It is an issue of high importance for all of us and we will not be able to consent to a document lacking a GHG value for tar sands.

Thanking you in advance.

Yours Sincerely,



Kriton Arsenis
Member of the European Parliament



Sirpa Pietikäinen
Member of the European Parliament

Jo Leinen
Member of the European Parliament
Chairman of the Environment Committee

Corinne Lepage
Member of the European Parliament

Satu Hassi
Member of the European Parliament

Linda McAvan
Member of the European Parliament

Chris Davies
Member of the European Parliament

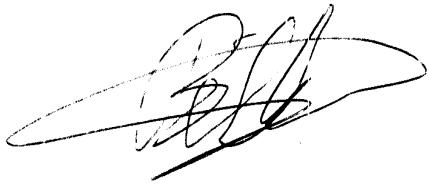
Heidi Hautala
Member of the European Parliament
Rapporteur of Fuel Quality Directive 1998-2003

Yannick Jadot
Member of the European Parliament

Asa Westlund
Member of the European Parliament

Rebecca Harms
Member of the European Parliament

Lena Ek
Member of the European Parliament

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BE', with a large, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the letters.

Bas Eickhout
Member of the European Parliament

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Fiona J. Hall' in a clear, cursive script.

Fiona Hall
Member of the European Parliament