

JOINT PRESS RELEASE:

EBA and EUGINE: “Biogas CHPs are key to greening heating & cooling in a very energy-efficient way”

MEP Algirdas Saudargas hosted a joint debate with the biogas and engine power plant industries on the decarbonisation of the thermal sector.

(Brussels, 29 June 2016) The European Biogas Association (EBA) and the European Engine Power Plants Association (EUGINE) co-organised on Wednesday 29 June the breakfast event “Greening Heating and Cooling with Biogas”, hosted by MEP Algirdas Saudargas, Shadow Rapporteur for the Heating and Cooling file in the ITRE Committee. Members of the European Parliament gathered to talk with industry experts about opportunities for decarbonising the heating and cooling sector with energy-efficient cogeneration units running on biogas. Due to the upcoming EU legislative initiatives on renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy performance of buildings and electricity market design, it was both a very timely and lively discussion.

As a first speaker, Dr. Jan Stambasky, President of EBA, introduced the audience to the biogas industry, drawing the attention to the current capacity in the combined heat and power generation and the recent developments of biomethane production. Andreas Eberharter, from GE Jenbacher, a well-known manufacturer of engine-based CHP units and member of EUGINE, outlined then the high efficiency and numerous applications of co- and tri-generation engines producing electricity, heat and cold from waste, e.g. in farms, landfills or sewage treatment plants. Eva Hoos from DG Energy's energy efficiency unit at the European Commission underlined that both efficiency and renewables are good to decarbonise the sector. She then stressed that “the necessary technologies are already there but they have to be deployed faster and at a larger scale”. An open debate followed between MEPs, the Commission and industry. Decision-makers highlighted the importance of developing a legislative framework which is conducive towards green solutions to decarbonise buildings, agriculture and the heating and cooling sector as a whole. The industry called for sound biomass sustainability criteria and market design measures that allow scarcity prices and reward flexible power generation.

Closing the event, MEP Algirdas Saudargas stressed the relevance of biogas CHPs to decarbonise the energy sector. He said that modernising heating and cooling infrastructure is essential and stressed that consumers have to be at the centre of this change.

More information about [EBA](#) and [EUGINE](#) are available on the respective websites.