

From the June 2009 Issue

## **EU forms algae group, plans first conference**

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Posted May 18, 2009, at 12:47 p.m. CDT

The European Algae Biomass Association is planning its first, organizational conference June 3 to 4 in Florence, Italy. Peter Vis, member of the Cabinet of European Commissioner for Energy Andris Piebalgs in charge of Renewable Energy Sources, will be the keynote speaker at EABA's inaugural conference. Panel sessions featuring European researchers and industry spokesmen will cover the current status and perspectives for algae development, technical and legal challenges, investment, greenhouse gas balance and sustainability implications.

The panel discussion introducing the potential for the newly formed European algae association includes Mario Tredici, University of Florence; Raffaello Garofalo, European Biodiesel Board; Frederic Bouvier, Roquette Freres in France; Claudio Rocchietta, Oxem in Italy; Ben Graziano, the Carbon Trust in the United Kingdom; Patrick Sorgeloos, University of Ghent in Belgium. The new association will be formally organized on the second day of the conference, with elections for the officers, steering board members, committee members and the executive director taking place.

The general objective of the European Algae Biomass Association is to act as a catalyst for fostering synergies among scientists, industrialists and decision makers in order to promote the development of research, technology and industrial capacities in the field of algae. The group aims to defend its members' interests at the European and international level. Its main target is to act.

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