

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Belgium To Ban Palm and Soya Oil for Use in Biofuels from 2022

Country: Belgium

Post: Brussels USEU

Report Category: Biofuels

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Report Highlights:

On March 22, 2021, the Belgian government notified the European Commission of a draft national decree transposing the EU Renewable Energy Directive. This draft decree creates a ban on biofuels and biogases from palm oil and soya oil on the Belgian market starting from January 1, 2022.

General Information:

In 2018, the European Union (EU) adopted a new [Renewable Energy Directive](#) for the period 2021-2030 (REDII). The REDII sets an EU-wide binding renewable energy target of at least 32 percent by 2030 with a 14 percent target for the transport sector. To reach that target, each EU Member State shall transpose the Directive into national law and establish how they will contribute to reach the EU target. The REDII entered into force on January 1, 2021 but Member States have until June 30, 2021 to transpose certain articles and annexes into national law.

Article 29 of the REDII lays down sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria for biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuel. To qualify for counting towards REDII targets, biofuels consumed in the EU must comply with the strict sustainability criteria provided in article 29. The REDII allows Member States to establish additional sustainability criteria for biomass fuels that will be counted towards the EU targets and are eligible for financial support.

On March 22, 2021, the Kingdom of Belgium [notified](#)¹ the European Commission of a draft royal decree that will transpose, *inter alia*, article 29 of the REDII into Belgian law. As part of the transposition of article 29, the draft royal decree introduces a ban on biofuels and biogases from palm oil and soya oil on the Belgian market starting from January 1, 2022. The Belgian Ministry for the Environment explains that they wish to exclude biofuels that cause widespread deforestation and land use change from the Belgian market. They note that some studies conclude that palm and soya oil are the most environmentally damaging raw materials in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, indirect land use change and deforestation.

Next Steps:

Following Belgium's notification through the TRIS procedure, a standstill period of three months began during which Belgium cannot adopt the royal decree. Meanwhile, the Commission and other EU Member States can examine the text. If they think there is a risk of creating a technical barrier on the EU Single Market, they can provide a comment. Stakeholders can also comment on the draft decree. For more information about the TRIS procedure, please see GAIN Report: [How the EU Technical Regulation Information System Works](#).

Attachments:

No Attachments.

¹ This notification was done through the Technical Regulation Information System (TRIS) of the European Commission.