

Public Summary – Board Meeting 16 Stichting DBC

Board Meeting 16 was held on June 25, 2018 with representatives of Engie, RWE, Nuon/Vattenfall and Uniper participating. A representative of CKade participated as the secretariat to the meeting. All participants to the meeting confirmed that they had read and understood the Anti-Trust Compliance Policy Statement.

Stichting DBC (or DBC Foundation; hereafter referred to as DBC) was established under the Covenant 'Duurzaamheid Biomassa' (Biomass Sustainability) of the Dutch Energy Agreement. The objective of DBC is to promote and accomplish certification of small forest owners (defined as smaller than 500 ha) in North-America to support the agreed growth paths in the Covenant for reaching 100% FSC- or equivalent certification of woody biomass.

The Board discussed the lack of progress by the Advisory commission on sustainability of biomass for energy applications (ADBE) on the evaluation of existing certification schemes. Almost a year has passed and a first final advice still has to be issued. The Board expresses its serious concern about this situation. The lack of clarity on the recognition of existing certification schemes is increasingly interfering with the work of DBC and prevents it from more definitive decision-making on implementation of the Stimulation Program.

The Board decided to contract American Forest Foundation (AFF) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) for execution of a '2018 Project'. The '2018 Project' serves as an interim project to bridge the 2018 time period in anticipation of starting a full scale Stimulation Program in 2019 if more definitive information is available on the recognition of existing certification schemes.

Concerning the further implementation of the Biomass Covenant, the Board agreed with DBC taking the lead in the implementation of non-legal criteria. Further decisions on implementation of the non-legal criteria will be made by the DBC Board, in which a seat is available for the NGOs. DBC met with Stichting Natuur&Milieu to discuss the participation of NGOs in DBC. Natuur&Milieu committed to coordinating with the other NGOs on their participation and will inform DBC on the outcomes. Also, Natuur&Milieu confirmed it justified for DBC to continue its work despite the lack of responsiveness and participation of the NGOs.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2018.
