

Business of Green: An appeal to slow down onbiofuel.

Last Friday an advisory panel to the EuropeanEnvironment Agency issued an extraordinaryscientific opinion: The European Union should suspend its goal o f having 10 percent oftransportation fuel made from biofuel by 2020.

The European Union's biofuel targets were increased and extended from 5.75 percent by 2010to 10 percent by 2020 just last year. Still, Europe's well-meaning rush to biofuels, the scientistsconcluded, had produced a slew of harmful ripple effects - from deforestation in SoutheastAsia to higher prices for grains.

In a recommendation released last weekend, the 20-member panel, made up of some ofEurope's most distinguished climate scientists, called the 10 percent target "overambitious"and an "experiment" whose "unintended effects are difficult to predict and difficult to control."

"The idea was that we felt we needed to slow down, to analyze the issue carefully and thencome back at the problem," Laszlo Somlyody, the panel's chairman and a professor at theBudapest University of Technology and Economics, said in a telephone interview.

He said that part of the problem was that when it set the targets, the Europe an Union was trying desperately to solve the problem of rising transportation emissions "in isolation,"without adequately studying the effects of other sectors like land use and food supply.

"The starting point was correct: I'm happy that the European Union took the lead in cuttinggreenhouse gasses and we need to control traffic emissions," Somlyody said.

"But the basicproblem is it thought of transport alone, without considering all these other effects. And wedon't understand those very well yet."

The panel's advice is not binding and it is not clear whether the European Commission will followthe recommendation.

It has become increasingly clear that the global pursuit of biofuels - encouraged by a rash oftargets and subsidies in both Europe and the United States - has not produced the desiredeffect.

Investigations have shown, for example, rain forests and peat swamp are being cleared tomake way for biofuel plantations, a process that produces more emissions than the biofuels cansave.

Equally concerning, land needed to produce food for people to eat is planted with moreprofitable biofuel crops, and water is diverted from the drinking sup

ply.

In Europe and the United States, food prices for items like pizza and bread have increased significantly as grain stores shrink and wheat prices rise.

The price of wheat and rice are double those of a year ago, and corn is a third higher, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization said this week.

"Food price inflation hits the poor hardest, as the share of food in their total expenditures is much higher than that of wealthier populations," said Henri Jossereau of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Biofuels are not, of course, the only reason for high food prices. Fuel to transport food is more expensive with oil more than \$100 a barrel. There have been unexpected droughts this year as well.

Should we conclude that all biofuels are bad?

No. But motivated by the obvious problems now emerging, scientists have begun to take a harder look at their benefits.

For example, the European Environment Agency advisory panel suggests that the best use of plant biomass is not for transport fuel but to heat homes and generate electricity. To be useful for vehicles, plant matter must be distilled to a fuel and often transported long distances. To heat a home, it can often be used raw or with minimal processing, and moved just a short distance away.

Section 2 Chinese-English Translation

上海作为国际金融中心 拥有繁忙的港口 亚洲最重要的证券市场之一 以及连世界500

作为国际化大都市 上海将承办2010 在世博会长达153
有着1700 本届世博会的主题--城市
使生活更美好 上海将于2010 5 10 预期将有创纪录的7000

上海计划投资30 用于城市改造 在世博会期间 为了保证交通顺畅 将投入更多的
资金用于城市道路和地铁的建设 按照世博会的相关要求 将建设一批会展展馆 建在黄浦江
两岸 包括众多高科技展亭和一个会议中心

上海市府决心通过世博会不断改善城市生活 许多重要基础设施将在2010 世博
会后 大部分将被改造成生活 办公 休闲设施

As a world-

famous business center and one of the most important securities markets in Asia, Shanghai boasts the best-

known seaport and a huge market that the world top 500 enterprises/entities cannot ignore.

Shanghai, as an international metropolis, will host the 2010 World Expo, thus becoming the first host city among those in developing countries. The theme of the World Expo—

City Makes a Better Life/A Better City, A Better Life. Shanghai, with a population of 17 million people, will be hosting the World Expo from May to October, 2010, which is expected to have the world record of 70 million visitors.

Shanghai has planned a 30-

billion US dollar investment in the construction of its all-

round infrastructure. In order to ensure the smooth flow of its traffic during the World Expo, Shanghai will put more investment in the construction of its urban roads and subway system. In accordance with the relevant provisions of the World Expo, a lot of exhibition halls and convention centers will be constructed all along the Huangpu River banks, including high-tech exhibition halls and convention centers.

The Shanghai municipal government is determined to avail itself of this opportunity to constantly improve the city life. Many important infrastructure will be completed in 2010. After the expo, most of the buildings will be transformed into living, office or recreational facilities.