A Cooperative Audit on Biofuels?

9th EUROSAI WGEA meeting
Stockholm, Sweden, October 2011
Why biofuels?

Biofuels – fuel derived from biomass

- Transport sector represent one third of EU greenhouse gas emissions (98 % of EU transport fuel is fossil fuels)
- 28 % growth in transport emissions 1990-2007
Primary objectives of EU biofuels policies

• **Greenhouse Gas Saving** – reduce GHG emissions from the transport sector

• **Energy Security** – reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels

• **New markets** – open new markets and create opportunities for the biofuels sector
EU Timeline - Biofuels

- **2007**: 10% of transport fuel by 2020 – Biofuels Directive
- **Dec. 2008**: New target for 'green fuels' (2020) includes biofuels along other renewable energies
- **Summer 2011**: Commission strategy expected to tackle unwanted side-effects of biofuels production.
- **2012**: EU countries to submit first report on national measures taken to respect the sustainability criteria for biofuels.
- **By Dec. 2014**: Commission to review greenhouse gas emission saving thresholds for biofuels, taking available technologies into account.
- **2018**: Commission to present renewable energy roadmap for post-2020 period.
- **2020**: Transport sector mandated to source 10% of its energy needs from renewable energy, including sustainable biofuels and others.
Transport

Indirect Land use change

Water shortage

Deforestation

Biodiversity

Food shortage
A cooperative audit on biofuels?

• EUROSAI WGEA strategic goals are to initiate and implement unilateral/cooperative audits within the area of climate change and sustainability

• Cooperation among SAIs is essential to effectively address challenges arising from the implementation of EU environmental law

• Joint audit reports are relevant for international and national institutions, i.e. may have increased impact
International audit criteria

- UNFCCC (1992) and Kyoto Protocol (1997)
  - Reduction of GHG emissions

- EU
  - Biofuels Directive 2003/30/EC
    - 2005: 2 % biofuel
    - 2010: 5,75 % biofuel
    - 2020: 10 % biofuel
    - 2020: 10 %
  - Fuel Quality Directive 98/70/EC
Possible audit topics

• Target achievement and compliance with EU directives and national policies

• Sustainability and environmental effectiveness of production and use of biofuels

• Efficiency and effectiveness of policy instruments
Share of biofuels in transport
Expected outcome of a coordinated audit on biofuels?

- Best practice/lessons learned in the implementation of biofuels in national transport sectors
- Identification of shared challenges and barriers for the sustainable production and use of biofuels in the EU
- Influence policy development and implementation at national and international level
Timing

EXCUSE ME. I'M GOING TO NEED THIS TO RUN MY CAR.
SAI audits/activities

• Biofuels for a Better Climate – How does the tax relief work? **Sweden, 2011**
• Bioenergy’s contribution to the EU Action on Climate Change. Preliminary study presented at EUROSAI WGEA Seminar on climate change, 2010. **ECA, 2010**
• Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency. **Malta, 2009**
• Transport and the environment: options for scrutiny. NAO review for the Environmental Audit Committee. **UK, 2008**
• Biofuel Programme is being implemented. **Lithuania, 2009**
• Handling of issues related to rape and bio-diesel fuel by the Government. **Estonia, 2006**
References


– **UNEP (2009)**: Assessing biofuels: towards sustainable production and use of resources


Thank you for your attention!