

# Didzis Palejs elected as AEBIOM President in the wake of European Bioenergy Future conference

18 November 2016

Making the most of the opportunity provided by [AEBIOM's 2016 annual conference](#), the European Biomass Association (AEBIOM) has officially announced the election of its new President and Board. Didzis Palejs (LATbio, LV) has been elected as the new president of AEBIOM, succeeding Gustav Melin (SVEBIO, SE) who has led the organisation for the past 6 years.

Didzis Palejs was the natural choice as he has been increasingly involved in AEBIOM and its network for over the past decade. Having worked in the energy and wood industry for almost 20 years at local and international levels in both sales and logistics, he developed a broad understanding of the technical, economic and political challenges ahead. Based on his solid experience, he served as both the Chairman of the Latvian Biomass Association (LATbio) as well as the Vice-President of the European Pellet Council (EPC - an AEBIOM network).

His strong commitment will be key during a critical moment for the entire bioenergy sector at EU level. In fact, on November 30<sup>th</sup> the European Commission will publish a legislative package that will set the scene for renewables and especially bioenergy for the next decade.

*"It cannot be stressed enough; bioenergy is essential for the EU-28 to reach its climate and energy goals,"* stated President Palejs. *"The coming winter package should make it right to allow our sector to play its role. Based on what we've heard about this package at AEBIOM's conference, I'm afraid we are not yet fully understood at EU level."*

Raising the benefits of bioenergy at EU level through strengthening the cohesion of the sector will be one of the top priorities for President Palejs during his term. *"I will dedicate my term to three priorities: uniting the biomass industry at international level, reinforcing our advocacy capacity and supporting national associations in the development of national biomass markets,"* said President Palejs in his inaugural address.

In addition, AEBIOM elected its new Vice-President, Thomas Siegmund (BBE, DE) and renewed part of its board by appointing Michael Doran (Irbea, IE), Christoph Pfemeter (ABA, AT), Marijan Kavran (CROBIOM, HR), Vilma Gaubyte (Litbioma, LT) Eric Vial (Propellet France, FR), Gustav Melin (Svebio, SE).

## **About Didzis Palejs:**

President - European Biomass Association (AEBIOM) - *Since November 2016*

Vice President - European Biomass Association (AEBIOM) - *December 2015 – November 2016*

Vice President - European Pellet Council - *Since February 2016*

Director - ADAP Ltd - *Since May 2010*

Chairman - Latvian Biomass Association (LATbio) - *Since March 2008*

Board Member – Director European Biomass Association (AEBIOM) - *November 2012 – December 2015*

Board Member – Director Forest and biomass Latvia - *July 2011 – August 2014*

**About the European Bioenergy Future conference 2016:** Attracting more than 270 delegates from over 50 countries, The European Bioenergy Future conference 2016 (#EBF16) was the sixth annual conference organised by the European Biomass Association (AEBIOM) aiming at gathering both entrepreneurs, businesses & policy makers to discuss their respective visions of bioenergy future.

AEBIOM hosted the EBF Conference in conjunction with the Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP), the Vyborg Forestry Development Corporation (VLK) and the BiFFiO project, with support from the COP22 Steering Committee.



Download more pictures of the Election [HERE](#)

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