

LIGNOFUELS 2026

25-26 February Helsinki, Finland



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Building on the success of previous editions of our Lignofuels conferences which have seen 160+ senior-level attendees come together in Helsinki, we are pleased to be hosting ACI's 15th Lignofuels Conference on the 25th & 26th of February 2026.



The two-day conference will once again bring together key lignofuels stakeholders to join in-depth, high quality discussions and networking. Attendees include leaders from second generation/advanced biofuels companies based across Europe and beyond. These include technical, strategic and finance executives from second generation and advanced biofuels producers, oil & gas majors, process technology providers, engineering firms and agribusiness as well as financiers, investors, policy & regulators, automotive, aviation & maritime industries, consultants, traders & brokers and chemical companies.

Who Will Attend?

- Producers and developers of lignocellulosic biofuels and sustainable aviation fuels
- Oil, gas, and energy companies developing lignocellulosic fuel pathways
- Aviation, maritime, and automotive fuel offtakers using advanced biofuels
- Lignocellulosic conversion technology and process licensors
- Engineering, equipment, and industrial solution providers
- Financial institutions, public lenders, and infrastructure investors
- Research institutes and applied technology centres
- Policy makers, regulators, and public authorities

Registration Is Simple:

For more information and registration contact

Dimitri Pavlyk

Tel: +44 (0)20 3141 0610

Email: dpavlyk@acieu.net

Online: <http://www.acieu.net>

Conference Fees:

Conference Pass (Includes Documentation Packet)

25th- 26th February 2026 – **£1,995.00**

Documentation Packet Only – £520

Members and customers of all supporting organizations are entitled to a discount off their conference package. Discounts are also available for multiple/group bookings.

Host City of Helsinki:



Opportunities to Meet Your Target Audience

Showcase your technologies and connect with senior-level attendees through branding, networking, and live demonstrations — a valuable opportunity to attract new business and build lasting relationships.

For information on available commercial opportunities, please contact:

Sam Cormack

Tel: +44 20 3141 0609

Email: samc@acieu.net



Day One – Wednesday 25 February 2026

08:00 – Registration & Welcome Coffee

09:00 – CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS



Andy Hill
Deputy Chair
Wood Recyclers Association

SESSION ONE: FROM MARKET SIGNALS TO PROJECT REALITY: TRANSLATING LIGNOFUELS DEMAND INTO BANKABLE ASSETS

09:15 - Lignofuels Market Outlook: Demand Signals, Cost Curves & What the Market Can Actually Absorb

- European & global lignofuels demand outlook
- Policy & regulatory drivers shaping demand
- Feedstock availability, cost curves & competitiveness versus alternative fuels
- What the data says about where projects should work, not how they are built



Esa Sipilä
Senior Principal, AFRY Management Consulting
AFRY



09:45 - From Market Signal to Bankable Asset: Why Lignofuels Projects Succeed or Fail (A Project Development Perspective)

- Translating market demand into viable project pipelines
- Where lignofuels projects typically fail during development & why
- Development-stage risk allocation across feedstock, technology & delivery interfaces
- What projects must prove to financiers before capital will engage

Gabriel Ferrera Rojano, Manager, Renewables & Decarbonization, **Stratas Advisors**

10:15 – Panel Q&A

10:30 – Morning Refreshments

11:00 – SESSION TWO: UPDATES ON REGULATION & ITS IMPACTS ON THE ADVANCED BIOFUELS INDUSTRY

- Evaluating current regulatory differences/inconsistencies & looking at areas where further clarification is needed
- How does regulation currently support projects in the EU?
- How regulatory design influences demand certainty for advanced biofuels across transport and energy end uses
- Reviewing the benefits of stable regulation, especially regarding long-term planning for companies
- Regulatory treatment of lignocellulosic and forest-based feedstocks and implications for eligibility, scale, and sustainability



Domenico Mininni
Policy Director
European Biodiesel Board (EBB)



Harri Laurikka
Managing Director
Bioenergia ry – the Bioenergy Association of Finland

Eric Woydte, Regulatory Advisor, **German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA)**

12:50 – Lunch

13:50 – SESSION THREE: SECURING ADEQUATE BIOMASS SUPPLY IN A RAPIDLY EVOLVING INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE

- How much biomass is actually available? Looking for numbers that can be agreed upon across the industry
- Lowering the costs associated with transporting & storing heavy biomass
- Guarantees for biomass producers: mitigating the impacts of changes in demand & developing strong working relationships between companies
- Latvia: Forest Resources for Advanced Biofuels



Themistoklis Neokosmidis
Low Carbon Pathways Science Associate
Concawe



Henrik Brodin
Head of Energy Transition
Södra



Aleksandra Blazeusz
Senior System Manager
ISCC System



Ieva Medne
Policy Officer
Latvian Biomass Association - LATbio

15:50 – Afternoon Refreshments

16:20 – CONFERENCE PRESENTATION: A REFINER'S PERSPECTIVE ON DEVELOPMENT & SCALE-UP OF LIGNOCELLULOSIC BIOCRUDES

- Development & challenges of biocrude feedstocks
- Integration & real-life challenges in refineries
- Differences between R&D and industrial scale hydrotreating



Henrik Rådberg
Head of New Opportunities, Strategic Business Development
Preem AB

17:00 – CONFERENCE PRESENTATION: FUELING ENGINES WITH BRAINFOOD: WHAT IF WE COULD FUEL CARS, SHIPS & PLANES WITH SUGAR – CHEAPER THAN ETHANOL & GREENER THAN OIL?

- Why sugars as fuel?
- Sugar-ethanol has powered cars for 100+ years
- Now entering the maritime sector
- Ethanol production is costly (fermentation + distillation $\approx 2 \times$ price)
- Using sugars directly can cut fuel costs dramatically



Michael Boot
CEO
Vertoro



17:40 – CONFERENCE PRESENTATION: FROM SUSTAINABLE BIOMASS TO SCALABLE LIGNOFUELS: UNLOCKING RESOURCES, MAXIMISING YIELDS WITH E-BIO FUELS

Jérémie Bertrand, Executive Director, Offtake & Feedstock Supply, Elyse Energy

18:20 – CLOSE OF DAY ONE

Day Two – Thursday 26 February 2026

08:30 – Registration & Coffee

09:00 – CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS



Andy Hill
Deputy Chair
Wood Recyclers Association

SESSION FOUR: SCALING UP NEW TECHNOLOGIES & MOVING TOWARDS COMMERCIALISATION

09:05 - Lignocellulose: The 2030s growth platform - What will it take?

- Neste's strategy and the role & potential of lignocellulose
- Neste's activities in the sector
- What is needed to commercialize lignofuels



Juha-Erkki Nieminen
Head of Lignocellulose
Neste



Taneli Rautio
Business Development Manager
Neste

09:30 – Presentation title to be confirmed



Pierre-Antoine Bouillon
Lead Technologist
Axens



09:55 – Presentation title to be confirmed



Juha Anttila
Vice President, Technology
Chempolis



10:20 – Presentation title to be confirmed

Senior Representative
Valmet



10:45 – Panel Q&A

PANEL DISCUSSION: EXPLORING THE MASSIVE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE GROWING MARKET FOR SAF

11:35 – Presentation - Long-Term SAF Demand Outlook & The Role of Lignofuels

- Aviation fuel demand growth & SAF blending trajectories
- Where lignofuels realistically fit versus other SAF pathways
- Regional outlooks (Europe focus)
- Key uncertainties that affect investment decisions

Rahul Malik, Principal Consultant – OMD Europe, CIS & Africa, **S&P Global**

12:05 – Presentation - Alternative Fuels @ DHL – Decarbonization meets New Business

- DHL is one of the largest SAF users globally
- Through our Go Green Plus Program, we are able to offer Low Emission Transport Services to our customers who in turn share the financial burden
- We initiated a new DHL brand that is focused on supporting the energy transition, including alternative fuels – DHL offers feedstock logistics, industrial project support, warehousing, spare part management and more

Jan-Marcus Lückhof, Senior Expert Sustainable Aviation, **Deutsche Post DHL Group**

12:35 – Panel Discussion



Elvis Ebikade
Director, Aviation
Bioleum

bioleum

Andrew Thomas, Director of Sustainability, **Vistajet**

Rahul Malik, Principal Consultant – OMD Europe, CIS & Africa, **S&P Global**

Jan-Marcus Lückhof, Senior Expert Sustainable Aviation, **Deutsche Post DHL Group**

13:05 – Lunch

SESSION FIVE: FINANCING & DE-RISKING LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS

14:05 – From Concept to Credit Committee: How Public Finance Prepares Lignofuels Projects for Investment

- Project Development Assistance and how EIB supports projects before they are bankable
- Innovation Fund: what successful applications have in common and why others fail
- Typical weaknesses seen in rejected grant and financing applications
- How technical maturity, cost credibility, and offtake readiness are assessed
- Alternative European Investment Bank instruments beyond grants:
 - Ordinary loans
 - Venture debt
 - Blended finance structures
- What developers should fix *before* approaching commercial lenders

Kostiantyn Kulyk, Senior Sector Engineer | Innovative Low Carbon Energy | Innovation Fund Unit, **European Investment Bank**

14:30 – Making Lignofuels Bankable: Risk Allocation, Structure, and Lender Expectations

- What moves a project from “interesting” to “financeable”
- Risk allocation between sponsors, technology providers, and offtakers
- Construction, feedstock, and technology risks from a lender’s perspective
- What Nordic Investment Bank requires to participate alongside other lenders
- Lessons from financing large-scale energy and industrial transition projects
- How public finance and guarantees can unlock senior debt

Patrik Marckert, Senior Manager, Bioenergy, **Nordic Investment Bank**

14:55 – Commercial Debt Reality: When Lignofuels Projects Finally Become Financeable

- What commercial banks actually underwrite versus what developers assume
- Revenue certainty, offtake contracts, and counterparty risk
- How banks view first-of-a-kind versus repeat projects
- Pricing, tenor, and covenant expectations for advanced biofuels
- Where projects still fall down after public funding support
- What convinces banks to proceed without heavy public guarantees

Menzo Reinders, Director Energy Sector Coverage, **ING**

15:20 – Inside the Capital Stack: A Developer’s View on Why Projects Stall or Succeed

- Why technically sound projects still fail to reach investment readiness
- Where developers underestimate risk versus where financiers overestimate it
- Trade-offs developers make between grants, equity dilution, and balance-sheet risk
- What developers must change *earlier* to avoid late-stage financing failure

Tuomas Saarinen, CEO, **BioEnerg**

15:45 – Panel Q&A

16:05 – CHAIR’S CLOSING REMARKS



Andy Hill
Deputy Chair
Wood Recyclers Association

16:15 – End of Conference & Afternoon Refreshments