

European Commission ;  
DG COMP;

## Opinion on State aid for environmental protection and energy - revised guidelines

Region Östergötland (RÖ) the public authority for Healthcare, Regional Development and Public Transport in Östergötland, Sweden, would in the context of the revision of guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy like to draw the attention of the European Commission to the revised Renewable Energy Directive (RED 2), where “food-based” biofuels are recognized as a sustainable contribution at 2020 levels, or maximum 7% of the MS energy mix.

Given the outcome of the revision of the RED Directive, as well as the important contribution from “food-based” biofuels at current levels, it is crucial that “crop-based” biofuels are clearly stated as eligible for exemption from the state aid rules in any revision of the State aid modernization package following this consultation.

### What we want:

In the current Guidelines article 113 and 121 stipulate an end to state aid for “crop-based” biofuels, by 2020. In any recast of the guidelines, Region Östergötland suggests that these time-limitations are removed so that “food-based” biofuels can continue to make its important contribution at current levels in the European energy mix.

### Why is it important to us?

The European transport sector is still heavily dependent on fossil fuels. Tax exemptions facilitated a rapid introduction of biofuels in the Swedish market for transport fuels, leading to economic growth as well as reduced carbon emissions. Private and public actors in Östergötland have made great efforts to reduce fossil fuel dependency, creating advantageous conditions for production of first and second generation biofuels with outstanding environmental performance. Östergötland is regarded as world leading when it comes to biorefineries for sustainable production of crop based biofuels with minimal carbon footprint.



Julie Tran  
Trafik- och samhällsplanerings-  
nämndens ordförande