

3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2020

To:

European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries from Lithuania Mr. Virginijus Sinkevicius

European Commissioner for An Economy that Works for People from Latvia Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis

European Commissioner for European Green Deal from the Netherlands Mr. Frans Timmermans

European Commissioner for Energy from Estonia Mrs. Kadri Simson

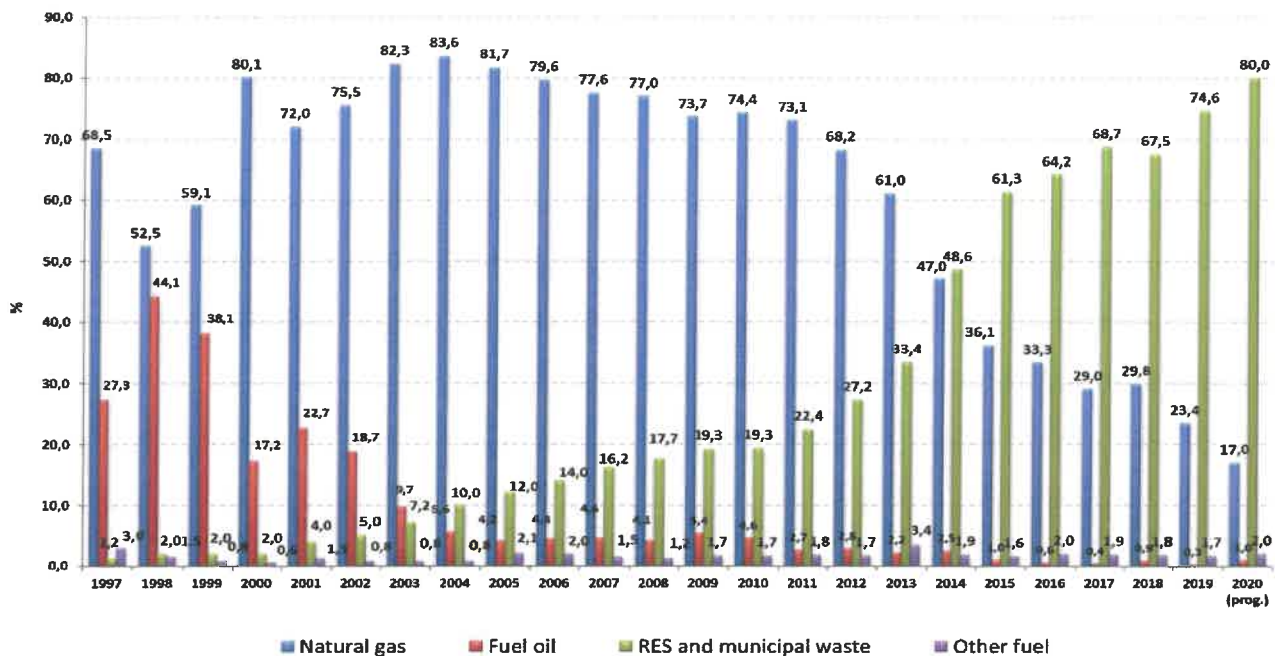
**LITHUANIAN ASSOCIATIONS REQUEST  
REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF THE BIOMASS ENERGY SECTOR**

Representatives of Lithuanian Associations address the European Commissioners with a request to consider the current situation and to delay other regulations that can cause serious consequences in biomass energy sector.

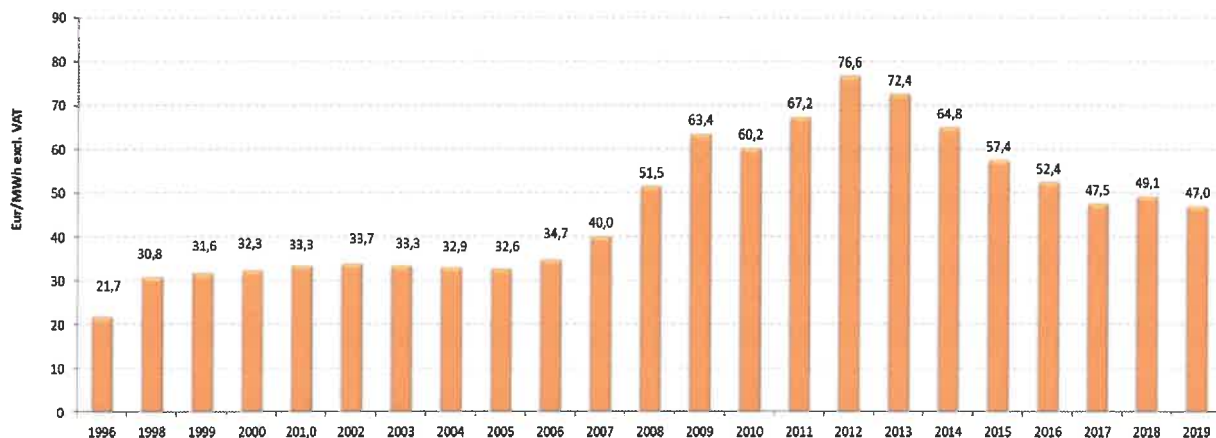
Bioenergy in Lithuania is produced using biomass, which mostly consists of wood by-products: branches, treetops that remainings from tree felling and wood processing, bushes from fields, etc. Even though the use of biomass has significantly increased during the last 15 years, the amount of wood stock in the forests has not diminished, rather on contrary. This affirms the fact that biomass energy is not the driving force of tree felling, as it uses the wood residuals from other forest related industries.

Sawmilling and tree felling by-products are broadly used in Lithuania, instead of leaving it to decay or cause fires. Therefore, the country itself could be seen as an example of good practice for other parts of the world.

President of Lithuania Mr. Gitanas Nausėda has emphasised the success in district heating (DH) sector, where natural gas is progressively replaced by biomass energy (**Figure 1**), that allows not only to significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions, but also to reduce heat prices in the country (**Figure 2**). **During the last 10 years the share of biomass energy in district heating (DH) system increased from 17,7 till 75–80 %! The price of heating is ~ 40 % lower nationally as a result of the use of biomass energy – for this reason 120 to 140 million Euro is saved each year by citizens.**



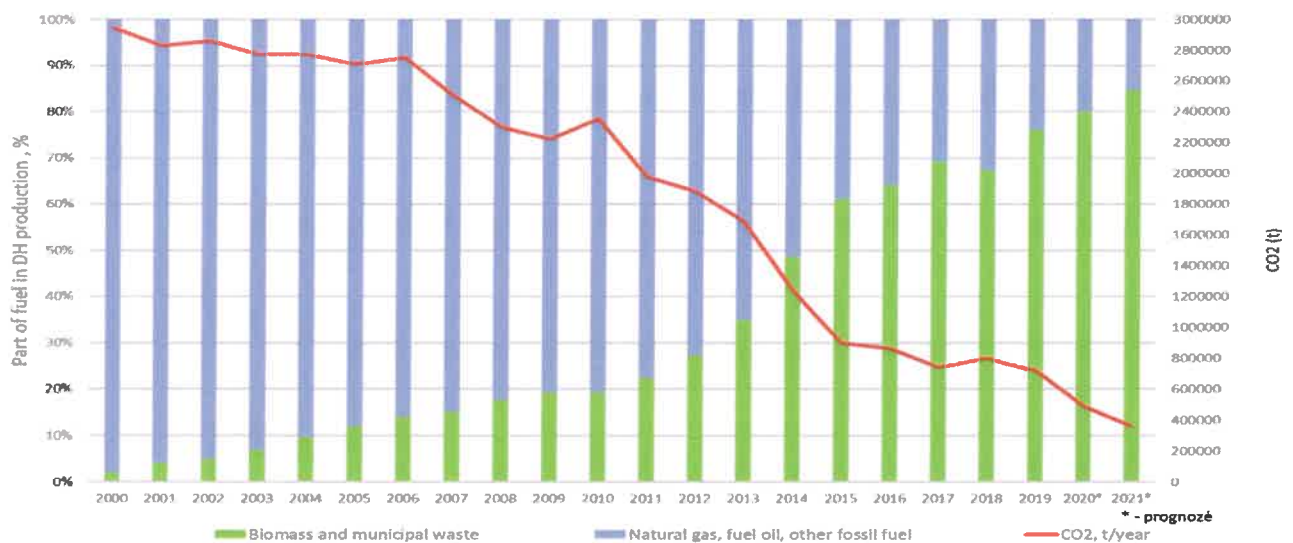
**Figure 1.** The use of biomass for energy production in the DH sector (%)  
*Source: Lithuanian District Heating Association*



**Figure 2.** Average DH price (1996-2019 years)  
*Source: Lithuanian District Heating Association*

The use of biomass in the production of District Heating (DH) decreases the use of national financial resources due to its low price compared to fossil fuel. Moreover, the money paid for biomass energy mostly **stay in the country**, as local fuel is used. Approximately 45% of biomass price returns with various taxes directly into countries' budget and the rest 55% also stay and circulate inside the countries' economy.

**Around 90% decrease of CO2 emissions has been caused specifically by the use of biomass energy in district heating systems (Figure 3). Bioenergy also helps Lithuania to reach the objective of 23% renewables in the energy consumption, as stated in the Renewable Energy Directive.**



**Figure 3. Greenhouse gas (CO2) emissions in DH**  
*Source: Lithuanian District Heating Association*

The growth of biomass energy sector not only ensures the energetic independence, cleaner environment, new job opportunities in regions, but also strengthens the economy of the country. The Associations are positive regarding the sustainability criteria, **but not in the case where some of the criteria are not yet fulfilled and transposed into national law, while others are being created and ought to be initiated within 2 years.** Decisions like this interfere the flow of investment and prevent the continuity of the sector. It is very important to understand the differences in countries, which do not have the local recourses and countries, which fully rely on their national resources and manage that very well. REDII allows countries to go beyond the minimum criteria if they wish.

**The main request from representatives of Associations for the European Commissioners is to consider this and postpone any new criteria. RED II will be revised already in 2023.**

**Representatives of the Associations would like to invite you for an online meeting, that would be intended to discuss current situation and changes that can provoke huge negative consequences for all biomass energy sector.**

**Lithuanian Associations:**

President of Lithuanian Confederation of Renewable Resources Martynas Nagevicius



Director General of Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists Ricardas SartataVICIUS



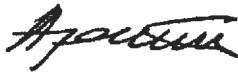
President of Lithuanian Independent Heat Producers Association Vytautas KisiELIUS



President of Lithuanian District Heating Association Valdas LukoseVICIUS



Director of Private Forest Owners Association Aidas PivoriUNAS



Director of Lithuanian Biomass Energy Association LITBIOMA Vilma GaubYTE

