

Nederlands Centrum



voor Inheemse Volken

European Committee for Standardization's initiative for sustainability criteria for biomass

CEN/TC383

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What is CEN?

The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) is a business facilitator in Europe, removing trade barriers for European industry and consumers.

Its mission is to foster the European economy in global trading, the welfare of European citizens and the environment.



What is a CEN Standard?

- **CEN's 30 National Members work together to develop voluntary European Standards**
- **These standards have a unique status, since they also are national standards in each of its 30 Member countries (and therefore are binding in practice)**



Who can participate in a CEN process?

- **Everyone who sees an interest in the process or in the standard to be developed can and may participate on a voluntary basis.**
- **Every participant is equal. Everyone can make and defend its point.**
- **Decisions are taken by consensus**
- **CEN is independent from the Commission**

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**Original broad scope:
“sustainability criteria for biomass”**



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6 Working Groups:

- 1. Terminology and cross-cutting issues**
- 2. Greenhouse gas emission balance, calculations and fossil fuel balance**
- 3. Biodiversity and environmental issues**
- 4. Economic and social aspects**
- 5. Verification and auditing**
- 6. Indirect effects**



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Where is this process now?

- **December 2008/January 2009: First meetings of Working groups to discuss scope of work**
- **February/March 2009: European Commission (DG TREN, renewable energy unit) wants CEN/TC383 to limit itself to Renewable Energy Directive (RED): RED has been adopted under a legal statute ("art. 95") that does not permit Member States to go beyond EC requirements.**
- **Several working groups decided to postpone the work until the scope of the work is clarified, others continued.**
- **Two options defined: RED or RED+ ? Decision taken on 5 June.**



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Position of NGO's:

Continue with original scope, because:

- . Transparency of this process (compared to others)**
- . Comprehensive standard can be used next to RED**
- . Wide stakeholder participation (compared to others)**
- . Paving the way to comprehensive ISO standard**



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Observations:

- **No mandate from Commission for broad scope**
- **Not many NGO's participate**
- **No participation by indigenous peoples**