



TUTKAS
The Association of Parliament
Members and Scientists

The bioethics of bioenergy

November 17, 2009, 9.00 – 17.00

The Finnish Parliament (The Little Parliament)
Arkadiankatu 3, Helsinki, Finland.

The seminar is organized by the Nordic Committee on Bioethics (www.ncbio.org) and the Association of Parliament Members and Scientists (TUTKAS).

During recent years the interest in developing alternative sources for renewable energy has increased dramatically. The up-coming climate conference to be held this fall in Copenhagen will focus on international restrictions on green house gas emissions. Different sources of bioenergy have been suggested and renewable energy is now being promoted as an alternative to fossil fuels. The large-scale production and consumption of bioenergy raises, however, a host of ethical issues.

This one day seminar will present different dimensions related to the production and use of different types of bioenergy, the impact they may have on the environment and consumer choices, as well as the direction and possibilities that ongoing research is offering to development. In this seminar will include a number of international experts who will present on topics ranging from the latest technologies available for the production of bioenergy to ethical aspects. With the seminar we hope to provide a meeting place for experts, citizens and political representatives to discuss these issues in a constructive environment.

Program

9.00 – 9.30 Registration and coffee

9.30 – 9.40 Welcome and opening: On the way to Copenhagen - expectations of the Environment Committee of the Finnish Parliament

Susanna Huovinen, MP, Chair of Environment Committee of the Finnish Parliament.

Session 1: Bioenergy - the green future

Chair: Aaro Tupasela – Nordic Committee on Bioethics

9.40 – 10.10 Biofuel production and industry

Kristina Maria Holm - Statoil

10.10 – 10.40 Biomass based bio-oil production

Petri Kukkonen - UPM

10.40 – 11.10 New types of bioenergy – algae in energy production

Kristian Spilling – Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)

11.10 – 11.40 How to utilize grain as part of the energy chain – is burning an alternative?

Max Schulman - The Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK)

11.40 – 12.00 DISCUSSION

12.00 – 12.50 LUNCH

Session 2: Challenges in bioenergy production

Chair: Rikke Bagger Jørgensen - Nordic Committee on Bioethics

12.50 – 13.00 Challenges in Finnish bioenergy policy

Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, MP

13.00 – 13.30 Biofuels: Prospects, Risks and Opportunities for Markets and Food Security

Keith Wiebe - FAO

13.30 – 14.00 Sustainability and esthetical aspects of bioenergy

Professor Henrik Wenzel – University of Southern Denmark

14.00 – 14.30 Ethical concerns of bioenergy use

Mickey Gjerris – Copenhagen University

14.30 – 14.50 DISCUSSION

14.50 – 15.10 Coffee break

Session 3: *Finding new paths for development*

Chair: Anne Myhr - Nordic Committee on Bioethics

15.10 – 15.40 The NGO perspective to bioenergy production

Simo Kyllönen – Greenpeace Finland

15.40 – 16.10 Bioenergy and development policies – small-scale bioenergy initiatives

Steven Hunt - Practical Action Consulting

16.10 – 16.40 Växjö: Fossil Fuel Free City

Lars Ehrlén – Division of Heat and Power, Växjö Energi AB

16.40 – 17.00 Discussion and closing remarks

Ole Johan Borge, Chair of Nordic Committee on Bioethics