



- press release -

**BRUSSELS. BIOGAS AND BIOMETHANE AT THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK: “HOW AGRICULTURE CAN HELP TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE”**

Can European agriculture produce food and energy in a sustainable way so as to become a tool to mitigate the effects of climate change? This has been discussed in Brussels, at the European Commission's Sustainable Energy Week, thanks to an initiative organised by Think Tank Farm Europe. One of the conference speakers was Piero Gattoni, president of the CIB, the Italian Biogas Consortium, who has taken part in the work alongside the MEP Angélique Delahaye, Kristell Guizouarn, director of sustainable development at Avril Group, Eric Sievers, investment director at Ethanol Europe Renewables and Alex Mason, head of renewable energy at WWF EU.

“Agriculture must also play its part – explained Piero Gattoni, president of CIB – in trying to find solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change and in adapting to it. Biogas and biomethane have a fundamental role to play. Integrating them into traditional production methods following Biogasdoneright principles, can have a double virtuous effect: both by reducing CHG emissions for which agriculture is responsible (around 12% at a global level), and by being a source of renewable energy (electricity, heat) and advanced biofuels by using the huge mass of by-products and residues (the management of which has both a financial and environmental cost) and intensifying agricultural production in a sustainable way with sequential cropping. Precision farming, biofertilisers, varied crop rotations and cover crops, as well as the use of effluent and by-products in anaerobic digestion mean that companies can improve their competitive position and obtain a reduction of emissions which even exceeds 100% compared to fossil fuels. Europe can be at the cutting edge and assume a position of leadership thanks to this new approach which, if backed by a suitable regulatory system, can develop technologies and innovation aimed at combatting climate change at both a local and global level”.