



Political Constellation Analysis for "The Potential for Sustainable Biomass in the Romanian Energy Sector"
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Objective & methodology

- To determine the perspectives of the main institutional stakeholders and their positioning vis-a-vis environmental and social constraints related to biomass usage in the energy sector
- 6 individual and small group interviews with 13 decision-makers from 6 stakeholders, private and public
- Semi-structured interviews
- Desktop research (political statements & programmes)

ANNEX 2: Interview Guideline

1. In your opinion, how important is decarbonization for Romania?
2. What obstacles do you see in Romania's decarbonization pathway?
3. What opportunities do you see in Romania's decarbonization pathway?
4. What role does biomass have in this pathway?
5. Romania currently has under 100 MW in biomass-fueled electricity production capacities. Under 2% of total installed capacity for electricity production. Which are the causes of this low percentage?
6. If you believe biomass should play a more significant role in Romania's electricity production mix, what public policy measures do you consider necessary for promoting this energy source?
7. Do you believe there are obstacles (legislative, regulatory, etc.) that prevent the wider usage of biomass in the energy sector? If yes, can you describe them?
8. How can investors be attracted in this sector?
9. What kind of arguments are needed for a wider adoption of biomass in the energy sector?
10. What do you think about the technology of black pellets?
11. For a new technology, such as black pellets, to penetrate the energy sector, what kind of actions are needed?



Political prioritization of biomass (or lack of it)

- "biomass" + "energy" + PSD/ PNL/ UDMR/ USR
 - PSD: biomass is not among the ten energy priorities of the party, priority is preventing illegal logging and ensuring affordable prices for firewood for the population
 - PNL: slightly more favourable – e.g.: Law 166/ 2023 (removal of RES obstacles in urban planning legislation, explicit reference to biomass), 2019 political party proposal subsidies to agri producers
 - USR: support the usage of biomass, including organic waste, for heating in rural areas
 - UDMR: no special reference to biomass, reference that illegal logging has stopped
- Point in case: PL-x nr. 44/2017



Tension environmental – energy – social objectives

- **tension** between environmental objectives related to biomass (e.g.: forest conservation and curbing illegal logging and deforestation) and using biomass in the energy sector is **real**
- **pro-conservation** forestry practices and discouragement of the usage of forestry biomass in the energy sector
- actual concern is **social**: biomass will rise prices of heating by reducing wood availability
- political economy constraint: illegal networks of firewood



Points of divergence

- Pro-conservation vs. intensive forest management
- Only scrap is burnt vs. solid wood is burnt
- Which type of forest to prioritize for harvesting
- CO2 absorption in old forests
- How much wood is illegally sold/ how effective SUMAL is
- Politicians make traceability hard vs. industry is playing dirty
- More biomass could be harvested (due to climate change) vs. we are ok



Points of convergence

- Biomass to replace firewood, including informal sales chains
- Forest roads
- Solution of choice: agriculture scrap and energy plants
- Lack of technical know-how at the level of municipalities