
Report on the 3rd General Assembly of the EU Renewable and Low-Carbon Fuels Industrial Alliance

The 3rd General Assembly of the EU Renewable and Low-Carbon Fuels Industrial Alliance (The Alliance) took place on December 6, 2024, in the premises of the European Commission in Brussels. The event brought together over 200 participants, including Alliance members, policymakers, industry leaders, representatives of Member States and relevant stakeholders to discuss progress, challenges, and future directions for renewable and low-carbon fuels in achieving Europe's Green Deal goals.

The agenda featured keynote speeches, high-level panels, and networking opportunities. Key sessions included discussions on industry challenges, policy alignment, financing strategies, and project implementation for the sustainable transition of the aviation and maritime sectors.

Welcome Address:

Magda Kopczyńska, Director General of DG MOVE, provided opening remarks. She highlighted the Alliance's growth to 310 members and its international recognition as a model for collaboration in renewable fuel development. She also emphasized the need for scaling up projects and enhancing active participation among members.

Mrs Kopczyńska also noted the growing international recognition of the Alliance's efforts, particularly from organizations like the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which views the Alliance as a



benchmark for best practices. She encouraged attendees to leverage the Alliance's platform to drive impactful policies and industrial changes.

Introductory Statements:



Eric Dalbiès (SAFRAN) and Davide Cucino (Fincantieri), Chairs of the General Assembly, reflected on the Alliance's progress. They underscored the importance of scaling up current projects, fostering members' engagement, and addressing the regulatory and financial barriers to achieving the Alliance's goals.

Mr Dalbiès stressed the need for greater investment in scaling SAF production, citing the challenges posed by limited feedstock availability and regulatory hurdles. Mr Cucino highlighted the maritime sector's unique role in advancing global decarbonization efforts and called for innovative solutions to address infrastructure and investment gaps.



High-Level Industrial Panel:

Industry leaders, including high-level representatives from Moeve, DHL, MSC Cruises, and Arcadia eFuels, discussed the challenges of scaling up renewable fuel production.

Panelists highlighted the importance of long-term offtake agreements to provide market certainty for investors. They stressed that building robust supply chains for renewable fuels, such as SAF and green ammonia, would require harmonized regulations and cross-border collaboration.



Shaping the Future of Renewable and Low-Carbon Fuels:

Members of the European Parliament, Virginijus Sinkevičius and Jan-Christoph Oetjen, outlined policy priorities for the next legislative cycle. Discussions emphasized the



need to align legislative measures with the Alliance's goals and to enhance collaboration between public and private sectors.

MEP Sinkevičius called for increased alignment between EU and national policies to ensure consistent implementation of renewable fuel targets. MEP Oetjen stressed the importance of innovation in hydrogen and synthetic fuel technologies to meet 2030 and 2050 climate goals.

Landing ReFuelEU Aviation and FuelEU Maritime:

Member States' representatives from Denmark, France, the Netherlands and Spain reflected on the challenges of implementing the regulatory framework set by ReFuelEU Aviation and FuelEU Maritime. Key points included:



- Addressing the maritime sector's unique challenges, such as the need for pooling mechanisms.
- Encouraging aviation stakeholders to scale sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) production to meet 2025 and 2030 targets.

Participants highlighted the necessity of balancing ambitious decarbonization targets with economic feasibility. They also discussed the role of public-private partnerships in accelerating infrastructure development and ensuring compliance with EU regulations.

Business Boosters:

The chairs of the different roundtables (RTs) presented important highlights from their work, showcasing achievements in advancing renewable fuels:



- RT1: Tobias Block (eFuels Alliance) discussed strategies for scaling eFuel adoption, emphasizing the need for unified standards and certification processes to facilitate market acceptance.
- RT2: Antoine Laborde (Air France-KLM) highlighted the need for further innovations in sustainable fuel procurement, including early-stage partnerships with biofuel producers to secure long-term supply agreements
- RT3: Farid Trad (CMA-CGM) focused on bunkering and energy transition for maritime applications, detailing examples of pilot projects that have successfully integrated green ammonia into their operations.
- RT4: Riccardo Dutto (Intesa Sanpaolo) underlined the need for infrastructure investments, providing examples of financing models that have enabled the successful launch of renewable fuel production facilities (RLCF Project Bankability Guide).



Roundtable chairs also addressed key challenges such as fostering cross-sectoral collaboration, addressing scalability issues, and creating robust frameworks for stakeholder engagement. Innovative case studies carried out by the Roundtables included scaling pilot projects for biofuels in aviation and creating hubs for renewable maritime fuel distribution.

Discussions pinpointed that building a comprehensive roadmap for renewable fuels requires integrating technological innovation, regulatory clarity, and financial support to achieve long-term goals. The Roundtables were instrumental in identifying actionable strategies for overcoming existing barriers.

Tools to Boost:

Eric von Breska (DG MOVE) presented the Project Pipeline and Community Platform. These tools aim to enhance project visibility, improve stakeholder collaboration, and streamline financing mechanisms.



The Project Pipeline was praised as a vital resource for identifying bankable projects and connecting stakeholders with funding opportunities. The [Community Platform](#) was also highlighted as a tool for fostering cross-sectoral dialogue and accelerating project timelines. Currently 15 projects have been submitted to the RLCF Alliance Project pipeline.

Mr Breska also outlined the key instruments that will be used to advance projects which are notified to the pipeline:

- A Labelling scheme: this instrument is under development by a dedicated Task Force set up by the Alliance members
- Technical assistance: currently in preparation by the EIB and DG RTD under Horizon Europe. The EIB is also reflecting on selecting projects from the pipeline to kickstart the lending market.

- Unlocking more funding opportunities: it is important to develop more opportunities for financing under different instruments such as the EU Innovation Fund, the European Hydrogen Bank, ETS SAF allowances, etc.
- More collaboration with Member States: The Alliance will seek more active monitoring of national developments with Member States

Investor Panel:

Executive-level investors discussed strategies for financing renewable and low-carbon fuel projects. Key insights included:

- The importance of long-term offtake agreements to secure investments.
- The need for government-backed guarantees and predictable funding mechanisms.

Panelists underlined the critical role of derisking mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships and government subsidies, in attracting private investment to large-scale renewable fuel projects.



Unveiling a new way forward – rethinking how the RLCF Alliance works:

Moumen Hamdouch (DG MOVE) introduced the proposal from DG MOVE to rethink the functioning of the Alliance and propose a more efficient working method. The Alliance will need to accommodate different expectations amongst which a stronger focus is needed to advance projects in the Pipeline. For this reason, the functioning of the Alliance is proposed to be reformed, and a new structure is proposed:



- One Program and Monitoring Group (P&MG) will merge the 4 Roundtables and develop the work plan of the Alliance. In addition, the P&MG will select four thematic vice-Chairs that will become the members of the Steering Group of the Alliance.
- The Secretariat's functions will be delegated to a contractor, for which DG MOVE is preparing a tender.
- More activities will involve all Alliance members (dissemination exercises), specific deliverables will be provided by ad-hoc task forces (e.g. the Labelling task force). Furthermore, Working Groups, which will signal the need to continue work, will be given an opportunity to continue their efforts under the new framework.

The call for members of the new P&MG is expected to be published in early February 2025.

Alliance Member Feedback:

The 2024 EU Commission Junior Professional Program presented the results of the consultation run with the Members of the Alliance on renewable and low-carbon fuels. A workshop and survey were organized to gather their feedback; 48 members of the Alliance participated to the exercise. The consultation's results highlighted that:



- Members have high confidence that the Commission will keep its ambitious targets (80%),
- Members believe the regulatory framework helped create their business case (85%),
- but members (80%) also pointed to the existence of barriers: regulatory uncertainty, price gap, access to finance, feedstock supply and lack of demand among those most frequently mentioned.

Closing Remarks:

Eric von Breska (DG MOVE) concluded the event by summarizing key takeaways and emphasizing the importance of maintaining momentum in the coming years. He thanked participants for their contributions and collaboration.

Mr Von Breska also reiterated the European Commission's commitment to supporting the Alliance's objectives through targeted investments and policy initiatives. He urged members to continue leveraging the Alliance's platform to achieve tangible progress in the renewable fuels sector.