



The European Oleochemicals &
Allied Products Group

Press release

FuelEU: European Oleochemical Industry urges to consider its access to animal fats category 3 while decarbonising the shipping sector

Brussels 20 October 2022 – Yesterday, the European Parliament adopted its position on European-wide rules to decarbonise the shipping sector with FuelEU Maritime. APAG, the European Oleochemicals Industry, welcomes the efforts of the European Parliament to pave the way for industries to become climate neutral by 2050 but urges policymakers to not decarbonise one sector at the expense of another.

The rules for feedstocks are diverging across the transport files. Animal fats category 3 are treated differently under each of the three files: the Renewable Energy Directive III, ReFuelEU Aviation and now the FuelEU Maritime Initiative. APAG members believe having the same rules across all files excluding animal fats category 3 as sustainable feedstocks for transport biofuels would be detrimental to ensure the future of the Oleochemical Industry in Europe.

“We strongly disagree that animal fats category 3 should be used in any mode of transport as a feedstock for biofuels. MEPs missed an opportunity to ensure maritime fuels are sustainable by including among others animal fats category 3. The additional pressure from the maritime sector on our feedstock will be detrimental for the European Oleochemical Industry.” – Sofia Ferreira Serafim, manager of APAG.

“Applying the cascading use principle and the waste hierarchy widely would ensure the development of biofuels from wastes rather than add to competition with historic uses in the bioeconomy sector, such as oleochemicals. Without access to animal fats category 3, bio-based alternatives to fossil fuel-based applications will cease to exist.” – Andreas Holzner, Chair of the European Oleochemical industry’s (APAG) RED task force.

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About APAG

The European Oleochemical Industry is a long-established sector of the European Bioeconomy. Since the early 19th century, the oleochemical industry has been using rendered animal fats and vegetable oils to manufacture bio-based products used for candles, paints, detergents, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and many other applications. Our industry continues to invest in sustainable technologies: for instance, oleochemical products are used to de-ink used paper to **enable recycling**; they are also used to **de-ice airplanes** as an alternative to fossil-based materials.

To discover more on the oleochemical industry, go to our [website](#).

APAG

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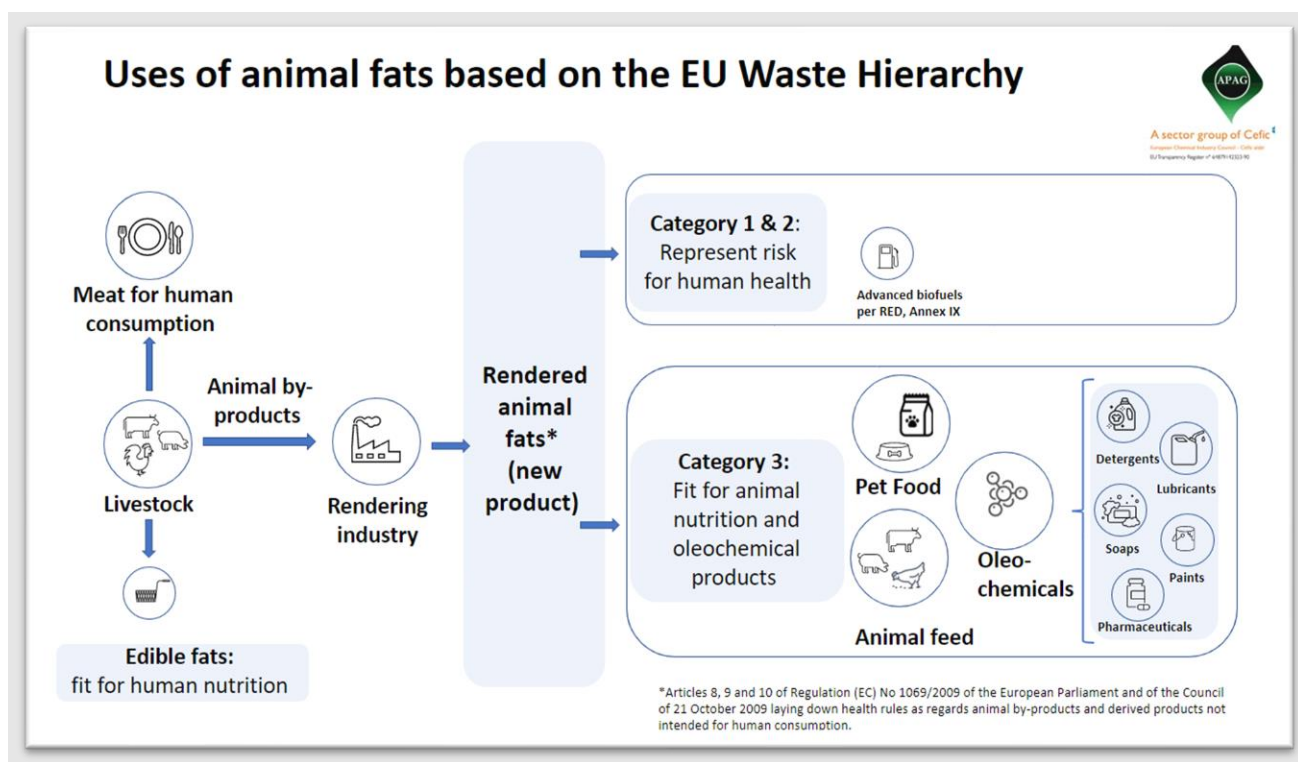
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Background information



What happens if we no longer have access to rendered animal fats cat 3?

In short, a lack of sufficient feedstocks. With demand for bio-based products is increasing, the availability of feedstock for oleochemical industry remains crucial.

The share of rendered animal fats used for biofuels has increased by more than 500.000 tons over the past decade, while the share available for oleochemicals and the animal feed sector has constantly decreased. If rendered animal fats category 3 are added to Annex IX of RED II, this trend will accelerate, raw material markets will be distorted, conversion to biofuels favoured, and equal access to rendered animal fats for the oleochemical industry will irrevocably be lost.

What are the consequences of this shortage in animal fats?

Only with competitive access to our raw materials, we can continue to produce sufficient bio-based chemicals to support the European Commission's goal to reach a truly circular economy.

The European Oleochemical industry is a key player of the bioeconomy and employs ca. 10.000 people. If locally sourced materials are no longer available, part of this pioneer industry will slowly disappear, and production will leave Europe. This will further increase pressure on global supply chains.