

## **SPEECH OF MR. DEFFONTAINE**

**< TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH TO ENGLISH >**

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

**Welcome to the Urban Community of Lille for the BIOGASMAX Symposium of Experts. We are glad to see you here today at this gathering dedicated to a theme that is close to our hearts.**

**Being among fellow experts, it is not necessary to bore you with a long speech on biogas production and its optimal use.**

**Biomethane production presents us with a solution – which might be a partial solution only. However, it is a solution to serious energy problems, which are to be solved in the decades to come by the use of renewable energy sources.**

**Therefore, biomethane production is highly relevant in the global context.**

**The significance of this fuel increases once the feedstock consists of biowaste.**

**How could one ignore the environmentally closed loop solution, which uses biodegradable products seen as waste to produce energy?**

**Hence we aim to improve all biomethane related technology in order to achieve high environmental performance.**

**As such we come to the questions that are at the base of projects like BIOGASMAX:**

- 1) Which production processes are most efficient?**
- 2) Which quality requirements lead to optimal biomethane use?**
- 3) Which financial & fiscal support systems are the best to:
  - a. Be applied locally?**
  - b. Be lobbied for at the European level?****
- 4) Which forms of biomethane use are most relevant:
  - a. Grid injection?**
  - b. Direct on-site use?****

**5) Which measures should we lobby for in order to create a more unbiased European legislative context? How can we strike a balance between the backing of electricity production from biogas and support for biomethane production from the same source?**

**With these questions in mind we have come together in Lille today aiming to enhance the debate on both the challenges and opportunities for biomethane as a vehicle fuel.**

**On behalf of Pierre Mauroy, President of the Urban Community of Lille and former Prime Minister during the Mitterand era, I welcome you here in our city. We hope that today's meeting will lead to informative and good practice exchange, bringing to the fore a business that is still under-estimated at present.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for being here with us today and for your commitment to the biomethane business. Rest assured that I support you in this challenge personally as does the Urban Community of Lille.**

**I wish you a fruitful and joyful day of work on this common cause.**

**Lille, 3 April 2007**