Sustainable Aviation Fuels

time for take-off

12-13 November 2026

Athens, Divani Palace Acropolis

Agenda

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A few words about the conference

The Fit for 55 package of the European Union has accelerated several policy initiatives aiming to move Europe forward to the objective of climate neutrality. Among those, the **RefuelEU aviation Initiative** rests the obligation on the aviation fuel suppliers to ensure that all fuel made available to aircraft operators at EU airports contains a minimum share of SAF from 2025 and, from 2030, a minimum share of synthetic fuels, with both shares increasing progressively until 2050. The targets are very ambitious especially for 2030, which is just four years away. E-fuels (synthetic aviation fuels made from renewable electricity and captured carbon) are a critical sub-target within the EU's ReFuelEU Aviation mandate. They are required to make up a growing percentage of all jet fuel at EU airports, starting at 1.2% in 2030 and scaling up to 35% by 2050.

To achieve the RefuelEU Aviation Initiative targets, the onus is placed on the industry and refineries to deliver significant volumes of advanced biofuels and synthetic fuels in an unprecedented pace. At the same time, the size of the required investments entailed in such accelerated deployment is unheard of, while international and national investors are wary due to the continuously amended and complex legislative European landscape.

To meet the targets, innovative value biomass supply chains and reliable sources of carbon dioxide emissions will have to be established to provide the resources needed giving confidence to potential investors. In addition, key biomass conversion SAF and eSAF technologies are still under innovative development. In sort, it is a complex *airspace*.

The Centre of Renewable Energy Sources and Saving is organizing this conference as a continuation of the Conference organised in November 2024 under the auspices and patronage of the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Greece aiming to inform the stakeholders on the necessary actions that must be undertaken to place the Greek aviation industry on an accelerated *FlightPath* to achieve the aims and objectives of the ReFuelEU Aviation Initiative for Greece with particular emphasis on eSAF.

International experts are invited to address the conference framing the global and European policy and research environment related to SAF and eSAF while Greek experts from the academic, industrial and refinery sector will present the status of resources, technologies and markets for the EU and Greece.

The conference is addressed to decision makers and experts in the biomass, fuels, hydrogen and aviation industries with particular interest in SAF and eSAF production and deployment areas.

Kind regards,

President of the Conference: *Dimitris Kardomateas, President & General Director of CRES*
Co-Chairs of the Conference: *Myrsini Christou, Director of RES Technologies of CRES*
Kyriakos Maniatis, Consultant, Former EC, DG ENER Principal Administrator

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Thursday, 12 November 2026

POLICIES and MARKETS

09:30-10:00 ***Registrations***

10:00-10:45 **Opening session**

Welcome by Chair: Dimitris Kardomateas, CRES President and General Director

- Despina Paliarouta, Secretary General for Energy and Mineral Resources, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy
- Maria Georgiadou, EC Directorate General for Research & Innovation

Welcome by the Co-chairs

10:45-11:30 **Session I: International Aviation Developments**

Chairperson: Myrsini Christou, CRES

- Douglas Phillips, Net Zero Transition Programs, IATA ***"The importance of sequencing in SAF policy development"***
- Matteo Prussi, Politecnico di Torino, EU representative at ICAO, ***"Rethinking SAF policy: aligning support mechanisms with technology-specific CAPEX and OPEX profiles"***
- Kyriakos Maniatis, Consultant, ***"Recent SAF Global Policy and Market Developments"***

11:30-12:00 ***Coffee Break & Networking***

12:00-12:45 **Session II: European Policy Developments**

Chairperson: Myrsini Christou, CRES

- Maria Georgiadou, EC Directorate General for Research & Innovation ***"Enabling SAF innovation and ecosystem in the EU"***
- Eric Van den Heuvel, studio Gear Up ***"Mind the Gap - Navigating the context of SAF"***
- Clio Agrapidis, RTDS-group ***"Beyond SAF Mandates: Closing Europe's Carbon Loop for Advanced Aviation Fuels"***

12:45-13:30 **Panel Discussion I: Are we on the right Flightpath?**

Panel moderatior: Eric Van den Heuvel, studio Gear Up

Panelists: Maria Georgiadou, Douglas Phillips, Matteo Prussi, Clio Agrapidis, Kyriakos Maniatis

13:30-14:30 ***Lunch Break***

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14:30-15:30 **Session III: Considerations on National SAF Policies and developing a SAF ecosystem**

Chairperson: Kyriakos Maniatis, Consultant

- Loes Knotter, Dutch Platform Renewable Fuels ***"Political support for SAF "From green premium to new cost-efficient green production systems"***
- Sergi Alegre, Airport Regions Council ***"EU&SAF: standing at the crossroad"***
- Georgia Lykou, Aviation security and Environmental protection Division, Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority ***"Refueling Aviation in Greece, HCAA Flightpath towards effective implementation of SAF Regulation"***
- Despina Tzoulaki, Director, Energy Sector, Grant Thornton ***"From Mandate to Market: Building a Bankable SAF Ecosystem in Greece."***

15:30-16:15 **Session IV: Practical SAF experiences in Greece**

Chairperson: Kyriakos Maniatis, Consultant

- Anastasia Angelopoulou, Senior Projects Advisor Motor Oil ***"MOH Experiences in Jet Fuel Market Development"***
- Michalis Papazoglou, Director of Refineries Planning, & Operation Division, HELLENiQ ENERGY ***"Sustainable Aviation Fuels for the Helleniq Energy"***
- Giorgos Govatzidakis, Sustainability Manager, AEGEAN ***"AEGEAN – embracing sustainability, our experience to date"***

16:15 – 16:45 ***Coffee Break & Networking***

16:45 - 17:30 **Panel Discussion II: SAF Opportunities in Greece – What needs to be done**

Moderator: Kyriakos Maniatis, Consultant

Panelists: Sergi Alegre, Loes Knotter, Georgia Lykou, Despina Tzoulaki, George Mitkidis, Emmanouil Markakis, Giorgos Govatzidakis

17:30-18:15 **Session V: Market considerations**

Chairperson: Eric Van den Heuvel, Studio Gear Up

- Judit Sandquist, SINTEF ***"DemonsTrating lower pollUting soLutions for sustaInable airPorts acrosS Europe – the TULIPS project"***
- Eleni Liakakou, Sustainable Transport team, WSP, ***"From targets to deployment: what will it take to scale sustainable aviation fuels in Europe?"***
- Apostolos Siskos, Co-Founder & Partner | Business Development, EMICERT ***"Greece: Cleared for Take-off? A Pre-flight Check of the Greek SAF Market"***

18:15-19:00 **Panel Discussion III: International aviation readiness to operate with SAF and e-SAF**

Moderator: Sergi Alegre, ARC

Panelists: Judit Sandquist, Eleni Liakakou, Apostolos Siskos, Eric Van den Heuvel

19:00 ***End of first day***

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Friday, 13 November 2026

RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY STATUS

09:00-09:10 **Welcome by Chairs: Myrsini Christou & Kyriakos Maniatis**

09:10–09:30 **Keynote speech**

- Myrsini Christou, CRES ***"Can Sustainable Feedstock Supply Ground the SAF Take-Off?"***

09:30-10:30 **Session VI: SAF commercial technologies**

Chairperson: Rainer Janssen, WIP Renewable Energies

- George Vourliotakis, Head of Unit, Energy Policy and Planning, Exergia ***"From Mandate to Plant: Operational Support for Mobilising EU SAF Industrial Capacity"***
- Maxime Vassieu, AXENS ***"Beyond Technology: Addressing the Real Challenges of SAF Project Development"***
- Michael Hecquet, TotalEnergies ***"TotalEnergies approach to Biofuels: Current experiences and looking to the future"***
- Stamatina Sideri, API Europe ***"APILOT - Scaling Biorefineries into Industrial Reality"***

10:30-10:45 ***Coffee Break & Networking***

10:45-11:30 **Session VII: e-SAF technologies in large scale demonstration**

Chairperson: Loes Knotter, Dutch Platform Renewable Fuels

- Ambroise Devresse, e-fuels Alliance ***"From Demonstration to Deployment: e-SAF Projects and the Policy Conditions for Scale"***
- Txetxu Arzuaga, General Manager PETRONOR Innovacion ***"Synthetic Fuels at Demonstration Scale: Plant Design, Commissioning Challenges and Validation Strategy"***
- Evanthia Nanaki, Helleniq Energy ***"Synergistic Advanced Carbon Capture Technologies for ConvERsion of Industrially Emitted CO_2 to sustainable Production of biofuels and chEmicals – the Sterope project"***

11:30-12:15 **Panel discussion IV: Do we have reliable technologies for SAF and e-SAF market deployment?**

Moderator: Loes Knotter, Dutch Platform Renewable Fuels

Panelists: Myrsini Christou, George Vourliotakis, Maxime Vassieu, Michael Hecquet, Stamatina Sideri, Ambroise Devresse, Txetxu Arzuaga, Evanthia Nanaki.

12:15-13:15 ***Lunch break***

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13:15-14:15 **Session VIII: Technologies and best practices for SAF deployment**

Chairperson: Rainer Janssen, WIP Renewable Energies

- Myrsini Christou, EERA Bioenergy *"Strategic priorities for the research, innovation and deployment for renewable fuels"*
- Berta Matas Guell, SINTEF *"Best practices for SAF upscaling– the Icarus project"*
- Berend Vreugdenhil, TNO *"Scaling SAF a syngas development from the ICARUS project"*
- Iker Aguirrezabal Telleria, Integrated Technologies for Biofuels (spin-off from EHU) *"Integrative technologies for the valorization of biomass into SAF"*

14:15-15:30 **Session IX: SAF technologies in innovative development**

Chairperson: Myrsini Christou, CRES

- Efthimia Alexopoulou, CRES *"Unlocking Marginal and Severely Degraded Lands and Advancing Innovative Cropping Systems for Low-ILUC Energy and Industrial Crops – IASIS, MIDAS, RUNFASTER4EU and CARINA projects".*
- Maria Loizidou, NTUA *"Integrated Biorefineries: The case of Greece"*
- Dimitris Kourkoumpas, CERTH *"Collaborative Actions to Bring Novel Biofuels Thermochemical Routes into Industrial Scale – the BioTheRos project"*
- Marcelo Eduardo Domine, SCIC *"Novel catalysts and catalytic processes for renewable SAFs and maritime fuels production in integrated biorefineries"*
- Stella Bezergianni, CERTH *"Bridging Waste Valorization and Sustainable Aviation – the ABATE project"*

15:30-16:00 ***Coffee Break & Networking***

16:00-17:00 **Session X: e-SAF technologies in innovative development**

Chairperson: Rainer Janssen, WIP Renewable Energies

- Charilaos Xiros, RISE *"Sustainable jet fuels from CO_2 by micro-algal cell factories in a zero waste approach – the ALFAFUELS project"*
- Kyriakos Panopoulos, CERTH *"Renewable Carbon-to-Methanol Pathways in Hydrogen Valleys for the Synthesis of Aviation and Maritime Fuels"*
- Rene Daniel Buettgen, FZJ *"Microalgae biorefinery for advanced biofuels with particular emphasis on SAF – the SUSTEPS project"*
- Konstantina Diamantopoulou, CERTH *"Accelerating the sustainable production of advanced biofuels and RFNBOs - from feedstock to end-use – the FUELPHORIA project"*

17:00-17:45 **Panel discussion V: Where do we stand with innovation in SAF technologies?**

Moderator: Myrsini Christou, CRES

Panelists: Berta Matas Guell, Berend Vreugdenhil, Iker Aguirrezabal Telleria, Efthimia Alexopoulou, Maria Loizidou, Dimitris Kourkoumpas, Marcelo Eduardo Domine, Stella

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Bezergianni, Charilaos Xiros, Kyriakos Panopoulos, Rene Daniel Buettgen, Konstantina Diamantopoulou.

17:45-18:00 **Closing remarks**
Myrsini Christou, Kyriakos Maniatis

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