

http://www.biofuels-news.com/industry_news.php?item_id=756

Spain biodiesel plants running at 9% capacity□

27 April 2009□□

Spain's biodiesel plants are running at just nine percent of capacity, according to producers.□□The producers hope recent duties imposed by the European Union on US imports will help revive production.□□'Nonetheless, imports and subsidiaries from countries like Argentina, Malaysia and Indonesia, could also become as damaging as those from the US,' a report by the biofuels division of renewable energy industry group APPA finds.□□APPA estimates that 71% of the 586,000 tonnes of biodiesel sold in Spain in 2008 were imported, and called for the Spanish government to ensure legal requirements to blend motor fuel with plant-based fuel be met with EU-manufactured fuels.□□'We are simply asking for measures to ensure the domestic biofuel industry's survival, just as France, Portugal and Italy have been doing,' APPA adds.□□As of 1 January this year, Spain has a mandatory target of 3.4% of automotive fuel used in 2009 to be derived from biofuel measured by energy content; a level that will rise to 5.83% in 2010.□□Biodiesel plants were producing 18% of capacity a year ago. Since then capacity has grown quicker than production, the report said.□