**19 June 2018**

**Vilnius, Lithuania**

**Bioenergy to contribute towards regional cooperation**

*Bilateral Forum on Sustainable Energy organised as part of State Visit*

A Bilateral Forum on Sustainable Energy was organized as part of the State Visit of the King of Netherlands, Willem-Alexander to Lithuania. The delegation from the Netherlands was received by President of Republic of Lithuania, Ms. Dalia Grybauskaite.

WBA President Remigijus Lapinskas was part of the event. Remigijus presented the latest information about bioenergy developments globally and initiated discussions with bioenergy industries and institutions from Lithuania and the Netherlands on possible collaboration with WBA.

The event focused on clean energy technologies and both the countries agreed that renewable energy technologies (solar, wind, biomass, hydro and geothermal) are playing an important role and will be important for future energy scenarios. The event was also an opportunity for Lithuania to showcase the development of the bioenergy sector and its contribution to the rest of the world. Key outcomes of the event include:

* Bioenergy can and should be developed not only as a bilateral cooperation between the Netherlands and Lithuania, but as a regional cooperation including all the Baltic States.
* Biomass from Lithuania meets the sustainability requirements set in the new EU Renewable Energy Directive including the legality of harvesting, forest regeneration, nature conservation areas, maintenance of soil quality and biodiversity etc.
* It is already economically feasible to upgrade and process biomass to export from Lithuania to the Netherlands
* A Lithuania – Dutch cooperation in the bioenergy sector can and will bring development in R&D, agriculture, forestry, industry etc.

The existing culture and technological development of biomass mobilization in the country will form the basis of such cooperation.

More information about the event: [Link](https://www.royal-house.nl/latest/news/2018/05/18/state-visit-to-lithuania---program) (*Royal House of the Netherlands)*

*About WBA*

*The World Bioenergy Association (WBA) is the global organization dedicated to supporting and representing the wide range of actors in the bioenergy sector. Our members include national and regional bioenergy organizations, institutions, companies and individuals. WBA mission is to promote the increasing utilization of sustainable bioenergy globally and to support the business environment for bioenergy.*

*Since its foundation in 2008, WBA has been working to address a number of pressing issues including certification, sustainability criteria, bioenergy promotion and the debates about bioenergy’s impact on food, land use and water supply. For more information, visit* [*www.worldbioenergy.org*](http://www.worldbioenergy.org)