

## EU, US should abandon biofuels: UN rapporteur

October 17 2012

---



The European Union and the United States should stop using biofuels as they are hampering food production, the UN's special rapporteur for the right to food Olivier De Schutter, pictured in 2009, told AFP on Wednesday.

The European Union and the United States should stop using biofuels as they are hampering food production, the UN's special rapporteur for the right to food Olivier De Schutter told AFP on Wednesday.

"Europe has to do more than lower its targets for production of biofuels as it is planning. It has to have the political courage to abandon them and the United States should do the same," he said on the sidelines of talks in Rome.

"It is dangerous in a situation in which global cereal stocks are so low to set unattainable objectives," he said.

The EU, which is to unveil its new objectives on Wednesday, set an ambitious target in 2008 by saying that [renewable energy](#) should represent 10 percent of [energy consumption](#) for the transport sector by 2020.

The current share for renewable energy is 4.5 percent.

In the United States, 40 percent of corn goes for [energy production](#).

"Production of biofuels relies on advanced networks for export which rarely benefit small producers since they are in the hands of big business. So their impact on reducing rural poverty is negligible," De Schutter said.

Big companies often do not care much about developing infrastructure and "generally do not keep promises", he added.

Biofuel production has also been accused of serving as a [justification](#) for large-scale land grabs.

A World Bank report in 2010 said the sector accounted for 21 percent of land bought in developing countries. A more recent World Bank report said that figure had risen to around a third of arable land being purchased.

(c) 2012 AFP

Citation: EU, US should abandon biofuels: UN rapporteur (2012, October 17) retrieved 20 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-10-eu-abandon-biofuels-rapporteur.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.