

## Bioethanol in Switzerland: great potential



**Swiss sales of ethanol by Alcosuisse, the SAB's profit centre, rose sharply in 2010. Those of bioethanol fuel also increased very substantially, and sales of FlexFuel vehicles (FFVs) doubled.**

In 2010, sales of bioethanol increased by 50% in Switzerland compared to 2009, and amounted to 3.2 million litres. Although these figures are still relatively modest, they should nonetheless not let us lose sight of the considerable potential of bioethanol as a sustainable fuel. Indeed, annual sales could reach up to 200 million litres by 2020. Distributed by 200 service stations throughout the country, bioethanol began to appear in Switzerland in 2004 as E5 (petrol with up to 5% bioethanol), followed by E85 from 2006. Switzerland is thus in keeping with its law on CO<sub>2</sub> and its commitment to the Kyoto Protocol in reducing its level of greenhouse gas emissions by 8% by 2012. Biofuels have been produced since 1998 within the scope of a pilot project (named etha+), conducted on behalf of the State by Alcosuisse. Originally, biofuels were obtained from cellulosic derivatives and native wood waste. From 2008, Alcosuisse offered distributors a new European ethanol from Norway, Sweden and Finland to meet growing domestic demand.

### **The private sector is taking over from the state after the pioneering phase**

*"On 1 October 2010, after having been one of the pioneers in biofuels, Alcosuisse transferred its industrial project and know-how to private-sector partners, in this instance North Sea Group Switzerland GmbH (NSG) and Landor fenaco", Pierre Schaller, Director of Alcosuisse points out. The Swiss market also benefits from tax incentives (ethanol exempt from tax) and from support from the main car importers like Saab, Volvo, Ford and Renault which have an extensive range of FlexFuel vehicles on the Swiss market, sales of which doubled last year. "While the biofuel industrial process is secure in terms of its sustainability and its environmental credentials in particular, it is still up to the players in the sector to convince the members of the Petroleum Union and petrol station managers to be able to move up a gear in our country", Pierre Schaller concludes.*

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**[English translation of the original article: Bioéthanol en Suisse : un fort potentiel en développement; [www.bioethanolcarburant.com](http://www.bioethanolcarburant.com);**

**<http://www.bioethanolcarburant.com/index.php/bioethanolcarburant/selection-du-mois/Plus-d-actualites/Bioethanol-en-Suisse-un-fort-potentiel-en-developpement>]**