The development of renewable energy technologies such as biofuels has been supported by policies in several countries in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to promote economic development. However, there are also social implications involved that have been underrepresented in both agriculture and biofuel sustainability studies. If social sustainability is the least understood dimension of sustainability, what have different stakeholders been communicating as ‘socially sustainable’? Are there gaps in the political discourse on biofuels in this regard? To answer these questions we conducted a combined procedure of content analysis and critical discourse analysis in Brazil and Germany. The analyzed materials include official documents and websites from government, private and civil society stakeholders. The Sustainable Development Goals were used as the framework for ‘sustainability’ and as a means to discuss the results. Our study finds that there are common topics in relation to social sustainability in the two contexts, as well as the presence of gaps in the political discourse on biofuels. Moreover, both countries present vagueness in political goals regarding social sustainability and a tendency to legitimize social aspects through ‘minimum social standards’. The social topics communicated by the stakeholders are similar to those identified in the scientific literature. Nevertheless, the gaps expose shortcomings in policy that should be addressed by giving dialogue opportunities to civil society organizations such as nongovernmental organization and social movements. The importance of such findings brings into awareness not only social implications of the development of renewable energy technologies such as biofuels, but also that political discourses have been neglecting important aspects of social sustainability. In order to take action towards sustainable development, it is important to overcome such gaps by adopting more holistic approaches and inclusive processes in bioenergy policy-making.