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Member States Representatives enhance synergies with CBE JU to support the deployment of circular bio-based innovations in Europe

Maintaining a structured dialogue among EU Member States, Associated Countries, and the Circular Bio-Based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU) to share information on the **political framework** in the scope of CBE JU and identify potential **areas of cooperation**, is essential to unleash the full potential of the circular bio-based economy in Europe.

The **State Representatives Group (SRG)**, a CBE JU advisory body representing Member States and Associated Countries, regularly meets to discuss with the CBE JU on challenges and opportunities for the bio-based sector. In addition, this advisory body provides updates on the latest developments as regards relevant national and regional activities within the scope of the joint undertaking, to ensure synergies and maximise the impact of CBE JU.

In this spirit, and based on a requirement set out in the Council Regulation establishing the JU, the **SRG** prepares a **yearly report** which:

- **Describes the national and regional policies and initiatives in scope of CBE JU;**
- **Identifies specific ways of cooperation with the projects funded by CBE JU.**

2022 marked the first year that the SRG members submitted the report. They welcomed this as an opportunity to share information and good practices. The SRG also concluded that certain areas will deserve greater action at a national level, and that cooperation and synergies among European and national actors should be pursued further, to accelerate progress towards a circular bio-based economy and its contribution towards a climate-neutral Europe.

The first SRG report is enriched by a list of **recommendations** (presented below), which **aim at spurring strategic political actions to support and enable the deployment of circular bio-based systems in Europe** while promoting and raising awareness about the CBE JU funding programme and activities.

'This first report provides a very valuable source of information, which beyond being a repository of actions and initiatives at national and regional levels, has allowed us to identify good practices and a set of recommendations to improve the cooperation with CBE JU and its partners (EC and BIC) with the ultimate goal of supporting the deployment of CBE JU priorities and outcomes at national and regional levels' was pointed out by Fabio Fava, Vice-Chair of the SRG.

Recommendations

for SRG / MS + AC

- Ensure good contacts with the responsible for bioeconomy and circular economy policy in SRG members' countries, as well as with national representatives in other bioeconomy/circular economy fora (e.g., PC, SCAR, NCPs, EBPF, etc.).
- Support the deployment of national/ regional and macro-regional hubs and initiatives for sustainable and circular bioeconomy development.
- Support the alignment of national R&I programmes and support actions that move national programmes from an R&D focus to bio-industrial valorisation and investments in upscaling pilot actions.

for the CBE JU

- Support (inter)national matchmaking and mutual learning exercises between (inter)national actors.
- Support the alignment of the CBE JU SRIA and national R&I programmes and support actions that move national programmes from an R&D focus to bio-industrial valorisation and investments in upscaling pilot actions.
- Set up an umbrella structure for connecting and linking European (and CBE JU) with national/ regional bioeconomy-related initiatives/ hubs/ stakeholder platforms, bioeconomy strategies and related coordination boards/ panels.

for the EC

- Support the move from concept (R&D status) to industrial policy actions.
- Support the development of horizontal & vertical coordination structures to initiate, monitor and evaluate national/regional bioeconomy policies.
- Set up an umbrella structure for connecting and linking European (and CBE JU) with national/ regional bioeconomy-related initiatives/ hubs/ stakeholder platforms, bioeconomy strategies and related coordination boards/ panels.
- Seek synergies with other European funding, e.g., regional & cohesion funds, to exploit complementarities and territorial specificities and to promote macro-regional/cross-country bioeconomy-related initiatives.
- Support the creation of EU websites/ platforms (e.g., JRC dashboards on circular/ bioeconomy) presenting info on national policies and data of relevant projects/ initiatives and link them with the CBE JU projects/info/dashboards.
- Support the deployment of national/regional and macro-regional hubs and initiatives for sustainable and circular bioeconomy development.

Cross-actors (SRG/CBE/EC)

- Develop data sheets on the bioeconomy for each EU Member State including details on biomass resources with regards to the contribution the bioeconomy can make to climate action, the size of the bioeconomy using a selection of indicators and examples of CBE JU projects based in each Member State.
- Facilitate the involvement of relevant stakeholders (companies/ clusters from industry, academia and society) in the coordination structures or management boards to address the economic & social relevance of national/ regional bioeconomy policy and facilitate the uptake of their concerns.
- Enhance the bioeconomy literacy for Citizens and Society: create an audio-visual production explaining the bioeconomy and the value of bio-based products for citizens, society & NGOs (consumer, environmental, industry and farming organisations in particular).