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Programme

Day 1 – 6 December 2023

13.00-14.00
Day 1 - 6 December 2023



Registration & welcome coffee

14:00-15:00
Day 1 - 6 December 2023



Opening plenary

Room: Auditorium

Master of ceremony:

Monika Jones

Speakers:

Catia Bastioli, CEO, Novamont

Nicoló Giacomuzzi-Moore, Acting Executive Director, CBE JU

Marc Lemaître, Director-General, Directorate-General of Research and Innovation, European Commission

15:15-17:00
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Parallel sessions

Session 1.1. - Taking up bio-based products and solutions: consumer and business perspective

Room: Auditorium

Market uptake of bio-based products remains a challenge. Often bio-based products and solutions involve higher prices which may result in less-sustainable choices for customers, especially in times of high inflation. Consumers also do not have sufficient information about the quality of bio-based products. Industries are slowly moving towards bio-based solutions, but leaving behind well-established and less-sustainable oil-based solutions remains challenging.

Moderator:





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Conny Czymoch

Keynote address:



Babette Pettersen, Vice-President
Europe, LanzaTech

Speakers:

Ana Maria Bravo, Director of Public
Affairs, International Flavors and
Fragrances

Bernard de Galembert, Director, CEFIC

Maria Gustafsson, Project Manager,
Swedish Standards Institute

Robert Mack, EMEA Government
Relations Senior Director, Kimberly-Clark

Frederic Van Gansberghe, CEO &
Founder, Futerro

Participants of this session will
exchange on:

- How can consumers be better supported in their choices and how can sustainability play a role?
- What success stories of market uptake can be applied to bio-based products and solutions?
- What is the role of standardisation in the market uptake of bio-based products? Does labelling have a role?
- How can information be transmitted simply and effectively to customers? What type of communication is needed?
- How to mitigate the price gap? How to avoid unfair competition?
- How to support industry in transitioning to bio-based solutions?

Session 2.1. - Attracting financing in the bio-based sector

Room: Aquarium

Financing of industrial scale projects, especially in their demonstration phase and in the deployment of first industrial units (biorefineries), remains one of the main obstacles today for bio-based industries in Europe. These initiatives involve a huge mobilisation of capital which affects SMEs in



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particular. In addition, financial institutions, venture capital, national banks still perceive these investments as too risky and not always bankable. Therefore, there exists the need to facilitate access to finance in order to realise the full potential of the bioeconomy in Europe.

Moderator:

Charlotte Van Velthoven-Geerdink

Keynote address:

Peep Pitk, Chief Development Officer,
Fibenol

Speakers:

Christophe Luguel, Head of
Industrialisation & Financing –
Bioeconomy For Change (B4C)

Pavel Misiga, Head of Unit for Green
Transitions, Directorate-General for
Research and Innovation, European
Commission

Piergiuseppe Morone, Vice-Chair, CBE
JU Scientific Committee, Full Professor of
Economic Policy, UnitelmaSapienza
University of Rome

Petri Oinonen, CEO & Founder, Ecohelix

Julie Person, Project Coordinator &
Communication Corporate, Microphyt

Participants of this session will
exchange on:

- What can we learn from successful financial engineering examples?
- What are the main investment risks in bio-based industries?
- How to support companies, especially SMEs, in facilitating access to affordable capital?
- How to align priorities of different financial institutions to achieve complementarities?
- What innovative instruments could be developed to take into consideration the environmental impact of these projects?
- How to change the “de-risking” paradigm for financial institutions?



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- What can we learn from successful financial engineering examples in CBE JU projects?

Session 3.1. – Setting the bio-based sector's R&I priorities for the next 30 years

Room: Studio

The Council Regulation establishing CBE JU sets out three main objectives for the JU to be implemented by supporting research and innovation actions:

1. Accelerate the innovation process and development of bio-based innovative solutions by intensifying and accelerating research, testing and upscaling the use of novel technologies for converting bio-based feedstock into useful, innovative, and circular solutions.
2. Accelerate market deployment of existing mature and innovative bio-based solutions by promoting the scale up of innovative bio-based processes, products and applications from TRL 5 upwards.
3. Ensure a high level of environmental performance of bio-based industrial systems by promoting zero-pollution, climate neutrality projects.

Moderator:

Jennifer Baker

Keynote address:

Kevin O'Connor, Director, BiOrbic and CBE JU Scientific Committee member

Speakers:

Fabio Fava, Vice-Chair of CBE JU states' representatives group and Professor, University of Bologna

Greet Maenhout, Head of the Forests and Bioeconomy Unit, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Geert Maesmans, Vice President for Research and Development, Cargill Food and Bio

Deepak Pant, Senior Scientist, Flemish Institute for Technological Research



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Stephan van Sint Fiet, CEO, Vivici 

Helena Vieira, Chair of CBE JU Scientific Committee, Coordinator Researcher and ERA Chair Holder, University of Aveiro

Participants of this session will exchange on:

- What R&I is necessary in the bio-based sector to support the EU in achieving its ambitious goals, such as becoming the first climate neutral continent in 2050 while strengthening its global competitiveness?
- Does Europe risk losing in the so-called 'BioRevolution' due to a slowdown in innovation and technology development?
- What is needed to strengthen the technology transfer and the collaboration among the scientific community and industry?
- Are the SRIA objectives still relevant in light of the new geopolitical context?

17:15-18:00

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Exhibition opening

Grand Hall

18:00-20:00

Day 1 - 6 December 2023



Networking cocktail

Grand Hall

Day 2 - 7 December 2023

08:30-09:00

Day 2 - 7 December 2023



Welcome coffee

Parallel sessions

09:00-10:45

Day 2 - 7 December 2023



Session 1.2. - Shifting industry towards bio-based production

Room: Auditorium



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Large industries are important actors in the European economy, and they play a key role in promoting sustainable practices within their value chains including downstream in the market. For traditional industries, shifting to bio-based production processes can be challenging due to the high reliance on well-established processes that often prove to have low environmental performance while at the same time remaining competitive during the transition.

Moderator:

Conny Czymoch

Keynote address:

Belgin van Dongen-Köse, Managing Director, Global Meat and Dairy Alternative Solutions, Cargill

Speakers:

Dirk Carrez, Executive Director, Bio-based Industries Consortium

Juliette Jacques, Deputy Managing Director, Starch Europe

Sarah Hosking, Biosourcing Platform Leader, Unilever

Hans Ingels, Head of Unit for Bioeconomy, Chemicals and Cosmetics, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission

Participants of this session will exchange on:

- How to encourage large industries to transition to bio-based production processes?
- Are large industries adapting to the higher environmental standards requested by customers and by policymakers?
- What is the role of EU Member States in promoting more sustainable industrial processes?
- What is the role of SMEs in promoting a shift towards bio-based processes to a larger scale?
- How can the EU facilitate the transition to bio-based industrial processes?



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- What market requirements can drive the change?
- How does biomass availability impact large industries' decisions?

Session 2.2. - Overcoming the challenges of biorefineries

Room: Aquarium

The first-of-a-kind biorefineries in Europe are one of the success stories of the CBE JU. This session is dedicated to sharing best practice and discussing the main challenges in building biorefineries, as well as the opportunities that arose from the implementation of these large and complex 15 CBE JU-funded Flagship projects.

Moderator:

Charlotte Van Velthoven-Geerdink

Keynote address:

Rob Beekers, Chair, Bio-Based Industries Consortium & Vice-Chair, CBE JU Governing Board

Speakers:

Eduardo Fernández Giménez, Innovation Director, URBASER

Craig Johnston, Co-Founder, Director Strategic Partnerships, ENOUGH

Ed de Jong, Vice President Development, Avantium

Joachim Merziger, CCO, AFYREN


Julie Person, Project Coordinator & Communication Corporate, Microphyt

Participants of this session will exchange on:

- What have been the major challenges faced by Flagship biorefinery projects?
- Was it possible to obtain complementary funding and what role did EU funding play?
- How were the consortia built and what was the key for its success?



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- What was the role of regional and national authorities in the permitting processes? 
- How did the logistic supply chains affect the preparation and operation of the plant? What about the sustainable supply of biomass?
- How were actors along the value chains involved in the projects?

Session 3.2. - Innovating for competitiveness

Room: Studio

Europe has been at the forefront of research and innovation in the bioeconomy, while currently several other global actors are investing massively in new green technologies. Europe shall provide continuous support to companies in driving innovation to the market and it is essential to identify emerging challenges and new technological opportunities to be explored.

Moderator:

Jennifer Baker

Keynote address:

Giulia Gregori, Head of Corporate Strategy Implementation & Engagement, Novamont, and CBE JU Governing Board member

Speakers:

Peter Dröll, Director for Prosperity, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission

Arnold de Maere, Managing Director, MINAGRO

Jori Ringman, Director General, CEPI

Claire Skentelbery, Director General, EuropaBio

Participants of this session will exchange on:

- Which emerging technologies does the sector need to embrace to remain competitive on the global market?



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- What are the scientific challenges that should be considered beyond the scope of the current CBE JU SRIA?
- What emerging technologies should be included or prioritised to accelerate the deployment of the bioeconomy in Europe?
- What industrial or research sectors can provide successful examples of emerging breakthrough technologies?
- How can policy keep up with the technology to make companies competitive on the global stage?

Workshop ‘Developing skills in the bio-based industries: future bioeconomy education pathways’

Room: Cinema

With 2023 having been designated as the European Year of Skills, the CBE JU-funded BIObec project organises a workshop that brings together the most relevant projects in bioeconomy education. The objective of this workshop is to outline the necessary and missing skills and future job profiles, as well as discuss the skills-related regional dimension and priorities and share strategies to attract students and professionals towards careers related to the bioeconomy.

Participants of the workshop will present and discuss success stories and formats for designing educational pathways (e.g., competence centres, business models and educational frameworks) that address the skills needed in the bio-based sector.

Discover the full workshop agenda (https://cbesf23.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Developing-skills-in-the-bio-based-industries_workshop-agenda-1.pdf)

10:45–11:15

Day 2 – 7 December 2023



Coffee break

11:15–13:00

Day 2 – 7 December 2023



Parallel sessions

Session 1.3. – Facilitating the deployment of bio-based solutions



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across Europe: the role of the regions



Room: Auditorium

Regions play an important role in the deployment of the bio-based economy in Europe as they can support the establishment of regional innovative value chains. They are also best situated to identify locally available feedstock that can trigger the bio-based economy and make use of regional and local specificities. Regions can foster the necessary support and infrastructure needed to capitalise on local natural resources, regional strength and capabilities.

Moderator:

Conny Czymoch

Keynote address:

Philippe Mangin, Vice-President Grand-Est region, France

Speakers:

Patrick Barrett, Agricultural Inspector – Bioeconomy, Agriculture Knowledge & Innovation System & Agri-Digitalisation, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland; member of the CBE JU states' representatives group

Mario Bonaccorso, Director, Italian Circular Bioeconomy Cluster Spring, Founder and journalist, Il Bioeconomista

Astrid Hannes, Policy and Project Manager, European Regions Research and Innovation Network

Katariina Kempainen, SVP, Group R&D, Metsä Group

Dries Maes, Senior Policy Advisor on the bioeconomy, Flemish Department of Economy, Science and Innovation

Kristina Šermukšnytė-Alešiūnienė, Director, AgriFood Lithuania DIH

Participants of this session will exchange on:

- What role can regions play in the deployment and/or replication of bio-based industrial facilities?
- What successful examples exist in European regions?



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- How to boost the engagement of regions with a high bioeconomy potential?
- Which role can the bioeconomy play to reconvert unused industrial sites?
- Which role can the bioeconomy play in the creation of new green jobs and opportunities in less developed regions?
- Which mechanisms currently exist that can be used?

Session 2.3. - Making bio-based companies and projects bankable

Room: Aquarium

CBE JU-funded projects and other successful biorefinery examples demonstrate that these business cases are sustainable. Scaling up technologies, from research to demonstration, to actual industrial production, is seen by banks and financial institutions as a risky endeavour and is often deemed as “non-bankable” despite these initiatives having the objective of a more sustainable and circular way of producing.

Moderator:

Charlotte Van Velthoven-Geerdink

Keynote address:

Joachim Merziger, CCO, AFYREN

Speakers:

Joško Bobanović, Partner, Sofinnova Partners

Filippo Giancarlo Martinelli, European Ambassador, Irish Bioeconomy Foundation, Coordinator of the BioeconomyVentures project

Alex Michine, Founder and CEO, MetGen

Pavel Misiga, Head of Unit for Circular Economy and Bio-based Systems, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

Participants of this session will exchange on:

- What financing models could be proposed to enable investments in the EU bio-based sector?



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- What instruments could be developed to support the replication of successful industrial units or their upscaling to commercialisation within the EU?
- How can banks and financial institutions be better informed about the opportunities that these Flagship projects offer?
- What additional factors can drive financial institutions to support these Flagship projects?
- What can we learn from success stories?
- Can complementarity of funds play a role?

Session 3.3. - Innovating for a sustainable future

Room: Studio

Horizon Europe, the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation, encompasses a wide range of instruments to support the European Green Deal. Among the different instruments, the CBE JU is specifically focussing on a sustainable circular bioeconomy as a key part of the industrial transition that will support a greener way of producing and consuming in Europe.

Moderator:

Jennifer Baker

Keynote address:

Sari Tasa, Chair of the CBE JU states' representatives group, Senior Adviser, Finnish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Industry

Speakers:

Maria da Graça Carvalho, Member of the European Parliament

Orsolya Frizon, Deputy Head of Unit for Research and Innovation, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

Jukka Kantola, Founder and CEO of the World Bioeconomy Forum

Marco Rupp, Public Affairs and Sustainability, Bio-based Industries Consortium



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Kristin Schreiber, Director for Ecosystems I: Chemicals, Food, Retail, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission

Peter Wehrheim, Head of Unit for Bioeconomy and Food Systems, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

Participants of this session will exchange on:

- Are the current instruments sufficient to support the ambitious goals of the European Green Deal?
- What R&I support instruments are necessary in the future EU R&I programme for the bio-based sector to enable the achievement of the ambitious goals of the European Green Deal?
- Is there enough coherence and complementarity among programmes? How to improve synergies and complementarities among programmes?
- What is the level of involvement of stakeholders in the preparation of these programmes and are they effective?
- Does the JU model ensure enough flexibility and achieve impact?
- What about the involvement of Member States?

Workshop 'Promoting young professionals in the bio-based sector'

Room: Cinema

The voice of young Europeans is important for the design of the bioeconomy policies of the future. Their experience is also an inspiration for the research and innovation communities. The EU Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors (https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/meet-our-bioeconomy-youth-ambassadors-2022-08-04_en) and the winners of the 2023 Bio-based Innovation Student Challenge Europe (BISC-E) (<https://biconsortium.eu/media/french-team-valorising-apple-pomace-pips-other-teams-win-bisc-e-2023>) inform and lead by example



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on sustainable circular bioeconomy, particularly the young audience, thus supporting EU's ongoing youth and education-related activities.

Both young professional groups are joining forces in organising this workshop to engage participants in a discussion around these topics:

1. Youth as driving and inspiring force for a sustainable bioeconomy
2. Youth visions about the future of the bio-based sectors and the bioeconomy

Discover the full workshop programme

(<https://cbesf23.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/CBESF23-youth-workshop-decription.pdf>).

13:00-14:30

Day 2 - 7 December 2023



Lunch

14:30-16:00

Day 2 - 7 December 2023



Closing plenary

Room: Auditorium

Master of ceremony:

Monika Jones

Speakers:

John Bell, Director for Healthy Planet, DG RTD and Chair of CBE JU Governing Board

Rob Beekers, Chair of BIC and Vice-Chair of CBE JU Governing Board

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Nicoló Giacomuzzi-Moore, Acting Executive Director, CBE JU

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16:00-16:30

Day 2 - 7 December 2023



Goodbye coffee

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