

Report on the 6th Scientific Committee meeting

Date and venue: 9 October 2024 (9:00-17:00 CEST), CBE JU premises (Brussels), hybrid meeting.

PARTICIPANTS:

SC members: Teresa ALVARIÑO (online), Christian HUYGHE, Emmanuel KOUKIOS (online) Lene LANGE, Piergiuseppe MORONE, Kevin O'CONNOR, Merja PENTTILÄ, Jónas Rúnar VIÐARSSON, Helena VIEIRA, Malgorzata ZIMNIEWSKA, Yvonne VAN DER MEER, Gerhard WEISS (online), Jarmila ZIMMERMANNNOVA

European Commission (EC): Astrid LAGEFOED Paraskevi FILIPPOUSI, Tomasz CALIKOWSKI, Mafalda QUINTAS, Laura LIEPINA (online), Petra GOYENS (online)

Bio-based Industries (BIC): Dirk CARREZ, Samuele AMBROSETTI, Marco RUPP (online)

CBE JU: Nicolás GIACOMUZZI-MOORE, Virginia PUZZOLO, Pilar LLORENTE RUIZ DE AZUA, Luisa PELLERANO, Elina ZICMANE, Javier SANTOS and other CBE JU colleagues (online).

Agenda item 1: Opening

Helena Vieira (SC Chair) welcomed all SC members and participants from the EC, BIC and CBE JU Programme Office, recalled the objectives of the SC meetings and thanked the SC members for the feedback provided so far to the draft CBE JU AWP2025.

Agenda item 2: Welcome speeches

Nicoló Giacomuzzi-Moore (CBE JU Executive Director), Mr. John Bell (Director of Healthy Planet, DG RTD.B, European Commission) and Rob Beekers (Chair of the CBE JU Governing Board and Chair of the BIC board) delivered welcome speeches.

The importance of the political moment was emphasized, with the new European Commission political guidelines and the mandates of the Commissioners recently designated. In particular, the relevance of the update of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy, the upcoming Biotech Act, and the Clean Industrial Deal was highlighted, along with the publication of three key reports: Draghi report on the future of European competitiveness, the report on the Strategic Dialogue on the future of the EU agriculture and the Letta report on the future of the European single market. The speakers stressed the key role of SC to ensure that the CBE JU, starting with its AWP2025, contributes to all the ongoing EU initiatives, as well as to the overarching goal of increasing EU competitiveness. It was also remarked that there is a high interest of the industry in the CBE JU, and in particular to its contributions to the development, demonstration and upscaling of technologies to bring them to the market, the access to finance and the networking opportunities.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting, confirmation of confidentiality and no Col, and review of the “points for action”, including the setting up of a SC task force on sustainability and circularity aspects

The SC Chair explained that the two action points left from the previous meeting had been completed, and the minutes of the 5th SC meeting were adopted. The agenda for the 6th SC meeting was adopted with no comments. No conflicts of interests were raised.

Agenda item 4: AWP 2025 introduction

EC (RTD.B1) and BIC presented an overview of the final list of topics included in the draft CBE JU AWP2025, including 4 Flagships, 7 IAs, 3 RIAs and 1 CSA, for a total budget of 165 million euro and they also clarified how the ratio among ToAs (FLAGs, IAs, RIAs and CSAs) is also well aligned with the projected budget allocations for the remainder of the partnership, including achieving the IKOP and IKAA goals.

Agenda item 5: SC advice on AWP2025: presentation and discussion of SC feedback to AWP2025

Helena Vieira, SC Chair, presented an overview of the timeline for the current consultation on the draft CBE JU AWP2025 (ending on 18 October). She thanked the SC members for their individual comments to the draft AWP2025. The SC Chair proceeded with an introductory presentation of the main general comments received to date, and on the different types of action and invited all members to further discuss these.

Agenda item 6: SC task force on sustainability: recommendations for AWP2025

CBE JU SC Secretary recalled the mandate and objectives of the SC task force on sustainability, informed that the first meeting of the task force had taken place on 3rd October to discuss recommendations on the CBE JU AWP2025 specific requirements and thanked task force members, Yvonne van der Meer, Lene Lange, Teresa Alvarinho and Jonas Vidarsson, for their contributions. Yvonne van der Meer presented the main recommendations of the task force and discussed with all SC members, EC, BIC and CBE JU programme office participants.

Agenda item 7: Update from CBE JU Programme Office: programme progress

Nicoló Giacomuzzi-Moore (CBE JU Executive Director) presented the status of 2024 priorities in the areas of governance, programme implementation, communication and stakeholders' management and administration and finance and he also provided an overview of the draft priorities for 2025. Virginia Puzzolo (CBE JU Head of Programme) presented the statistics of Call 2024 submission of proposals, which reached a number of 298 applications, almost doubling the previous year's call. Elina Zicmane (CBE JU Communication Officer) presented the main communication activities since the last SC meeting.

Agenda item 8: Update from EC on CBE JU related activities

Tomasz Calikowski (DG RTD. B1) presented an update on the recent EC developments, including: the political guidelines of the new Commission and the mission letters, the update of the bioeconomy strategy, the preparation of the new Biotech Act, as well as the broadening of the scope of the portfolio of the Commissioner for Research and Innovation.

Agenda item 9: Update from BIC on CBE JU related activities

Samuele Ambrosetti (BIC) provided an update on their last developments since the last meeting, including the increase in membership. He also presented different initiatives, such as the OIC Challenge, the webinar and article on AI, the study on European Bioeconomy in figures, the BIC/RCI biomass study, the BIC-ZWE report on bio-waste, BIC on IPCEI, the tech tour bio-based industries 2024 and the BISC-E competition.