

Report on the 7th SC meeting

Date and venue: 1 April 2025 (9:00-13:10 CEST), online meeting

PARTICIPANTS:

SC members: Teresa ALVARIÑO, Arnaud DRAGICEVIC, Emmanuel KOUKIOS, Sandra KROMMES, Lene LANGE, Piergiuseppe MORONE, Kevin O'CONNOR, Merja PENTTILÄ, Jónas Rúnar VIÐARSSON, Helena VIEIRA, Malgorzata ZIMNIEWSKA, Yvonne VAN DER MEER, Zane VINCEVICA-GAILE, Jarmila ZIMMERMANNNOVA, Antonis ZORPAS

European Commission (EC): Astrid LAGEFOED, Paraskevi FILIPPOUSI, Tomasz CALIKOWSKI, Mafalda QUINTAS

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

CBE JU: Nicolás GIACOMUZZI-MOORE, Virginia PUZZOLO, Pilar LLORENTE RUIZ DE AZUA, Elina ZICMANE and other CBE JU colleagues

Agenda item 1: Opening

Helena Vieira (SC Chair)

Ms. Vieira 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 AWP2026 draft topics list.

Agenda item 2: Welcome speeches

Nicoló Giacomuzzi-Moore (CBE JU Executive Director), Astrid Ladefoged (Head of Unit B1. Green Transitions, EC DG RTD) and Mr. Dirk Carrez (BIC Executive Director) delivered welcome speeches.

The welcome addresses stressed the importance of the ongoing EU policy developments for the Bioeconomy, such as the Competitiveness Compass, the Clean Industrial Deal, and the upcoming new Bioeconomy Strategy, Life Science Strategy, Biotech Act and Circular Bioeconomy Act, all highly relevant for CBE JU.

They also emphasized the key relevance of contribution of the SC to these initiatives and to the CBE JU programme, and the remaining Calls 2026 and 2027. It was also highlighted that CBE JU has, among the JUs, one of the highest leverage effect and SMEs participation, and is the only instrument for the scaling up, derisking biorefineries and creating new bio-based value chains. The stability, predictability and concrete policy actions to attract investments in the EU

are essential. The Bioeconomy is key to ensure strategic autonomy and achieve defossilisation through the sustainable use of the biomass and the circular economy.

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 recalled the provisions regarding conflict of interests and asked if there were any comments on the minutes of the 6th SC meeting and the agenda for the 7th SC meeting. Both were adopted with no comments.

The SC Chair informed that the two action points from the last meeting were both completed.

Agenda item 4: SC mandate renewal, new SC members & SC Chair and Vice-Chair selection

Nicoló Giacomuzzi-Moore explained that the SC was established in March 2022 for a period of 3 years, with possibility for SC to renew their mandate for 3 more years.

- 11 SC members confirmed their interest to remain in the SC, while 4 of them decided not to renew their mandate.
- The 4 new SC members were welcomed to the SC and invited to briefly introduce themselves: Arnaud Dragicevic, Sandra Krommes, Zane Vincevica-Gaile, Antonis Zorpas.

Kevin O'Connor, and Piergiuseppe Morone, were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

Agenda item 5: Timeline & consultation process for AWP 2026 and AWP2026 draft topics list & rationale

Virginia Puzzolo (CBE JU Head of Programme) explained the rationale behind this first consultation of the AWP 2026 draft topics list: to have a more strategic discussion with the SC on the topics to be selected for next year call, in the context of the progress of the CBE JU programme as a whole and the two remaining 2026 and 2027 Calls.

She provided an overview of the AWP 2026 programming cycle, thanked the SC for already providing their feedback before the SC meeting, invited them to discuss their recommendations and recalled that the final SC consolidated feedback is due for 11 April.

CBE JU Head of Programme explained the rational and timeline of the AWP2026 consultation , ending on 11 April. EC (DG RTB.B1) and BIC presented an overview of the first draft list of topics for AWP2026 and the available budget for Call 2026 (170 M EUR). They explained that this first list contains 6 Flagship topics, 7 IA topics, 6 RIA topics and 2 CSAs topics, but that the expected number of final topics in the AWP2026 is of 4 Flags, 5 IAs, 3 RIAs and 1 CSA. Therefore, the

consultations with the SC & SRG, as well as the internal consultations within EC and BIC, will play an important role in prioritizing the topics to be selected.

Agenda item 6: SC advise on AWP2026 draft topics list

Kevin O'Connor presented a brief overview of the SC comments, which was followed by an open discussion with SC members and EC and BIC representatives. The main points raised are summarised below. 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 7: Presentation of CBE Programme progress & SC advice

Virginia Puzzolo, CBE JU Head of Programme, presented the main highlights covered by the annual activity report 2024 (AAR 2024); the CBE JU 2025 priorities, including an update on the deployment and working groups, and the changes introduced in the first and second amendments of AWP 2025. She also presented the outcomes of the Call 2024 evaluation, including the statistics before the conclusion of the grant agreement preparation (GAP) and the lessons learnt.

Elina Zicmane, CBE Communications Officer, presented the main communication highlights since the last SC meeting, including the 3 flagship inaugurations and different events and campaigns. She also announced the most important upcoming events, among them the CBE Info day 2025 on 3 April.

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

Dirk Carrez, BIC Executive Director, presented the main BIC updates since the last SC meeting, including the increasing BIC membership, with already 355 industry members and 280 associated members, the Open innovation competition, a new country report focused on Hungary, different reports published (Biowaste study, Biomass study, Trends 2025 report), the Important projects of common European interest and the BISC- E.

Tomasz Calikowski, Policy Officer at DG. RTD B1, presented the latest developments on the policy initiatives relevant to CBE JU, such as the Life Sciences Strategy (public consultation open until 17 April), the EU Bioeconomy Strategy and the Circular Economy Act. He highlighted the 4 pillars of the Bioeconomy Strategy: securing sustainably-sourced biomass; creating efficient demand for more value from less resources; from Lab to Fab, priorities for scaling up and a globally competitive European bioeconomy sector. He also presented some key data on biomass use, supply and demand stemming from the studies in the framework of the JRC Biomass mandate.