

Report on the 9th SC meeting

Date and venue: 28th April 2026 (9:30-13:40 CEST), online meeting

PARTICIPANTS:

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

European Commission (EC): James MORRISON, Tomasz CALIKOWSKI, Mafalda QUINTAS, May HOBEIKA

Bio-based Industries (BIC): Philippe MENGAL, Samuele AMBROSETTI

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

Agenda item 1: Opening

Kevin O'Connor (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 CBE JU AWP2027 draft topics list.

He warmly welcomed Philippe Mengal, current BIC Executive Director (ED) and former BBI JU/CBE JU ED, and thanked the former BIC ED for the exceptional and visionary work done over the last years in engaging industry, supporting and shaping the bioeconomy in Europe.

Agenda item 2: Welcome speeches

Nicoló Giacomuzzi-Moore (CBE JU Executive Director), James Morrison (Chair of the CBE JU Governing Board, Director Healthy Planet, EC DG RTD.B) and Mr. Rob Beekers (Vice-Chair of the CBE JU Governing Board) gave the opening address.

It was pointed out that since 2014, BBI and CBE together, have invested in 220 projects, supporting the creation of new bio-based markets in Europe and helping the bioeconomy move from a niche to a strategic priority for Union and become the intersection between circularity, resilience and competitiveness.

Regarding the new FP10, 175 billion EUR have been proposed by the EC, including the competitiveness fund and the partnerships, which stresses the importance given to upscaling and market uptake. The upcoming call for evidence, the impact assessment as key steps, together with and the open consultation to stakeholders are key elements for the definition of the FP10.

The Stakeholder Forum and Strategic Board meeting (held on 24 March) was emphasised as an important milestone, bringing together several European Commission Directorates-General and CEOs from BIC member companies. A strong consensus on the achievements of the CBE JU and the clear need for a successor initiative was highlighted. It was stressed that addressing the “second valley of death” will require not only a follow-up partnership but also improved access to capital and stronger de-risking instruments for large-scale investment.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting, confirmation of confidentiality and no Col, and review of the “points for action”

The SC Chair recalled the provisions regarding conflict of interests and asked if there were any comments on the minutes of the 8th SC meeting and the agenda for the 9th SC meeting. Both were adopted with no comments. The SC Chair informed that the three action points from the last meeting were completed.

Agenda item 4: Timeline & consultation process for AWP 2027 and AWP2027 draft topics list & rationale

Pilar Llorente (CBE JU programme officer) presented the timeline for the AWP2027 preparation, which revolves around two consultations with the two Advisory bodies: the first one on the AWP2027 first draft topics list, currently open until 30 April, and the second one on the full AWP2027, which will take place from 18 Sept to 19 Oct.

Samuele Ambrosetti (BIC) and Tomasz Calikowski (EC, DG RTD.B1) presented the overview of the AWP2027 budget, the current scope of the topics included in the extended list for consultation, as well as the final number of topics expected per type of action.

Agenda item 5: SC advise on AWP2027 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.

Agenda item 6: Update from CBE JU: programme progress

Nicoló Giacomuzzi-Moore, CBE JU Executive Director, outlined the CBE JU 2025 achievements that will be included in the annual activity report 2025 (AAR 2025). He presented the CBE JU 2026 priorities which include, in addition to the successful organisation of the CBE JU Stakeholder Forum 2026, to valorise the CBE JU projects’ portfolio and collect the related KPIs, to strengthen the financial contribution monitoring and reporting and to contribute to the discussions about the preparation of FP10.

Elina Zicmane, CBE JU Communication Officer, presented the main communication highlights since the last SC meeting, including very important events such as the Stakeholder Forum 2026 that took place on 24 March, the online CBE JU Info Day 2026 on 12 March and the Networking event on 21 April. She also presented upcoming communication priorities for 2026.

Virginia Puzzolo, CBE JU Head of Programme, presented an update on the deployment group on finance and investment, the activities of the working group on primary producers, the

workshop on synergies with national and regional funding instruments and the widening strategy new action plan 2025-2027, as well as the outcomes of the Call 2025 evaluation, including the statistics before the conclusion of the grant agreement preparation (GAP) and the new CBE JU interactive dashboards.

Agenda item 7: Updates from EC and BIC on CBE JU-related activities

Philippe Mengal, BIC Executive Director, presented the main BIC updates since the last SC meeting, including the increasing BIC membership, with about 400 industry members and 300 associated members, the CSA projects where BIC is a beneficiary or under GA negotiation, the BIC matchmaking event held in February 2026, BIC members consultation on new SRIA, relevant EU initiatives with BIC contributions, BIC role in the Critical Chemical Alliance, including the BIC appointment as vice-chair of the working group on “Lead markets”, the implementation of future lead markets with the establishment of 3 task forces, access to finance by establishing connection with investors and in relation to Important projects of common European interest first steps have been taken and 3 “bio” IPCEI have been endorsed, BIC is studying how it could be involved in the next steps.

Tomasz Calikowski, Policy Officer at DG. RTD B1, presented the latest developments on the policy initiatives relevant to CBE JU, focusing mainly on Biotech Act II lead by DG GROW. He reminded that its scope will focus on industrial applications and complement Biotech I which focused on health and food biotech. He informed that a Call for Evidence on Biotech Act II will be launched in May and invited SC members to contribute.

Mafalda Quintas, Policy Officer at DG. RTD B1, informed about the next steps in relation to the EU Bioeconomy strategy. On behalf of the colleague from DG AGRI she provided information on the Strategic Approach on Research and Innovation for agriculture, forestry and rural areas and on the R&I conference that will take place on 24-25 September that SC members are welcome to join. In addition, she provided an update on the future partnership in FP10, including a proposal for future JUs and informed that a Call for Evidence will be opening in the upcoming weeks and a public consultation will be launched and invited SC members to contribute.

Agenda item 8: Presentation of SC paper on the EU Bioeconomy strategy revision

Kevin O’Connor presented the key messages included in the SC review paper on the *European bioeconomy strategy revision: An opportunity to go against the tide and secure a sustainable future*, underlying the needs of a long-term vision and of a Bioeconomy Act.