

Report on the 5th Scientific Committee meeting

Date and venue: 6 June 2023 (9:30-16:00 CEST), CBE JU premises (Brussels), hybrid meeting

PARTICIPANTS:

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

European Commission (EC): John BELL, Paraskevi FILIPPOUSI, Tomasz CALIKOWSKI, Marta ANDREONI, Laura LIEPINA, Maarit NYMAN

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

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

Agenda item 1: Opening

Helena 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 sent to the first draft of the AWP2025 Call text.

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 Dirk Carrez (Executive Director of BIC) delivered welcome speeches. The positive developments were highlighted, including the stakeholders' mobilization around the CBE JU stakeholder forum, the EC communication on Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing, and the new EU Bioeconomy Strategy due for end of next year. The SC was called for support in identifying the key opportunities and messages to advance Bioeconomy in a world where Europe needs to stand on its own feet, and where strategic autonomy and the sustainability of the biomass are key aspects. It was remarked that one of the elements that make CBE JU unique is the focus on upscaling and deploying technologies, which after 10 years has had a visible impact by increasing investments, sustainability and awareness. The 10-fold increase in the number of BIC members reflects in the diversity of feedstocks, technologies and applications being developed.

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 4th SC meeting were adopted. The agenda for the 5th SC meeting was adopted with no comments. No conflicts of interests were raised.

A proposal was made by CBE JU PO to establish task force within the SC on sustainability and circularity aspects, as required in the Council Regulation. SC members were requested to express their interest in being part of the task force.

Agenda item 4: Programming 2025: MAP update and first list of topics for AWP2025

EC (RTD.B1) and BIC explained how the SC feedback to the MAP had been taken into account, highlighted the link between the MAP and the topics included in this first draft of the AWP2025 Call text and presented the Call 2025 preliminary budget. The presentation was followed by a discussion with the SC members.

Agenda item 5: Other updates from EC: Biotech & Biomanufacturing Initiative & Horizon Europe Cluster 6 Work Programme preparations (synergies with CBE programming)

EC (RTD.B1) presented the Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing initiative, and explained its context, challenges and opportunities, and targeted actions identified in the EC communication. An overview of the Work Programme 2025 for HE Cluster 6 was also provided.

Agenda item 6: SC advice on AWP2025: short introduction from the Chair and discussion per type of action

Helena Vieira, SC Chair, presented an overview of the timeline for the current consultation (ending on 14 June) and for the further drafting and consultation on the final AWP2025. She thanked the SC members for their individual comments to the draft AWP2025 and made an introductory presentation of the main general comments and on the different types of action, which was followed by a discussion.

Agenda item 7: Update from CBE JU: programme progress

Nicoló Giacomuzzi-Moore (CBE JU Executive Director) presented the main achievements of 2023, as reported in the Annual Activity Report 2023, and explained the status of the priorities for 2024, including the status of the deployment groups. Virginia Puzzolo (CBE JU Head of Programme) presented the Call 2023 results, including the new signed projects, and updated on the Widening Strategy and its action plan. Elina Zicmane (CBE JU Communication manager) presented an update on the communication activities.

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

Dirk Carrez (BIC Executive Director) provided an update on their last developments since the last meeting, including the significant increase in members (+130 in one year), among them 50 micro-companies, and the development of two studies on virgin biomass availability and on bio-waste generation, among other activities.