

FINAL Meeting notes of the KICK-OFF MEETING

Friday September 07, 2012. Meeting notes by Eric Regouin

1 Start of the meeting - Welcome by the chair

Objectives of the meeting, include

- To get to know each other
- To formulate added value to work being undertaken nationally
- To propose an agenda for our work, including tasks and time table; concrete deliverables

Make-up of this group is divers: this can change once the groups gets more focus.

2 Introduction to this SWG



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2.1 Mandate from SCAR; Terms of Reference

The version sent with the agenda differs slightly from the one approved by SCAR; this is the correct one:



Foxit PDF Document

2.2 Barna Kovács; Commission's Communication (see slides)

Short explanation of SCAR. Established 1974, relaunched 2004. Most of the SCAR work is carried out in working groups like this one and include foresight studies and analysis of research needs. Some working groups have evolved into ERA-nets.



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2.3 Niels Gøtke: [Copenhagen Declaration](#)

A 3-day conference took place under Danish presidency following on the Commission's Communication on the Bio-economy.

A Declaration was produced that focuses on ten specific points. See also www.bioeconomy.dk, where a full report of the conference will be available shortly.

This SWG is expected to help implement some of the policy lines set out.

Discussion

Participants are expected to liaise with their own policy and research structures and represent the policies of their countries. Fortunately many are subject matter specialist as well, which in this area is very necessary in order to conduct fruitful discussions

3 Communication on Bio-economy. Eveline Lecoq, research programme officer, DG Research & Innovation. Presentation and state of affairs. See slides



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Two documents are essential:

- Communication: The Bioeconomy Strategy
- [Commission Staff Working Document](#)

To protect public goods is now more stressed in the definition of the bio-economy than was previously the case.

The Communication sets out a number of areas to work on. One is the development of PPP's to attract more private funding to bio-economy research, and to guarantee an integral research approach along the complete value chain.

A Bio-economy Panel is being created: no too big, flexible, to formulate advice and recommendations. It will work with various Commission's bodies. There is potential for interaction between this SWG and the Panel.

A Bio-economy Observatory is being established under the lead of the Joint Research Council. Coordination with the OECD takes place. Barna Kovács, in the Commission, is coordinator.

There may be a [regiostars award](#) in 2014 for bioeconomy.

The Committee of the Regions is formulating an Opinion on the Bioeconomy to be adopted in December.

Biobased industries basically excludes bio-energy production.

4 Workshop 1. Which topics to be studied within the mandate?



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The participants proposed a number of important topics this SWG should address and produce a palpable result on. They can be categorized into broad categories / work packages. They are not agreed topics to be elaborated by this SWG, but rather a list of important issues, sometimes conflicting, that the participants put forward.

- Biomass production, including
 - redesign agriculture
 - closing the loop / life cycle analysis
 - reconciling food, feed and biomass production
 - high value products made by farmers
 - forest biomass
 - research coordination, recommendations, agenda setting
- Research questions on sustainability, including
 - more biomass, less food?

- what is meant by sustainability
- research gaps in sustainability
- translation of policy objectives to research questions
- Strategic questions & efficiency, including
 - Advice to Horizon 2020 areas and topics of research
 - Synergy between SWG and Bioeconomy Panel
 - How to share research; what is already done. Inventories.

The participants proposed some topics this SWG should not address:

- No activity with an ERA-net as a goal
- Nothing that others are doing: basic research on sustainability. The Bioeconomy Observatory is going to aggregate systems, data, and others, engaged in research. The Observatory will gather data but which data is not yet clear.
- Development of sustainability criteria
- PPS and market initiatives
- Fisheries, but excluding marine resources
- Liquid biofuels

5 Workshop 2. Combining topics into work tasks. What results and output can be delivered (workshop, report, advice etc)? The objective is to formulate a manageable amount of work tasks.

Three breakout groups then elaborated a draft task programme. There was no suggested format for this, but it should include concrete products. Any product is fine: workshop, list of recommendations, policy brief, advice to member states, advice to work programme of Horizon 2020, etc. etc.

Care should be taken these products are realistic taken into account the fact that this SWG has no resources. Both DK and the Commission mentioned that based upon the progress and relevance of the work of this SWG there may be funds available, for instance, for hiring some specialist advice, etc.

A. Sustainability (Juan Carrasco &

B1. To come to a common understanding of what sustainability is: criteria, priorities. Matrix mapping study of the understanding of sustainability and how it is measured across different member states with respect to biomass production of various types (fibre, food, fuel)..

Product: inventory of criteria from all stakeholders, expressed in a table/matrix, leading on to a gap analysis and commentary on opportunities for further developments.

B2. Methodology development for energy crops in marginal areas (what is a marginal area in Europe?). This should be defined. Non-food crops (= energy crops) in marginal areas in Europa.

Product:

B3. How to use biomass in a sustainable way? Different applications differ in their sustainability. Development of a business case for specific applications.

Product:

B4. Sharing good examples

Product: good examples are collected, collated and shared/published

B. Biomass production, including food (Jan van Esch & Corinne Bitaud)

B5. New playing field, new opportunities, new risks. New smart design of agriculture and forestry.

Product: knowledge gaps → recommendations for research. We also talked about sharing good

examples.

B6. Smart use of biomass. Good examples are collected and shared
Product: knowledge gaps → recommendations for research

B7. The Governments play an import role: taxes, what is a 'byproduct', regulatory field (CAP) etc. The Playing Field for biomass production is taking shape.
There is a need of analysis of how by-effects of regulation can slow down the developpement of sustainable biomass production and alternative uses. This probably doesn't need a holistic inventory of regulations because professionals very well know where are bottlenecks ! Moreover, the product of this task could be more relevant for further action in this perspective.
Product: inventory of these type of government interventions and regulation. Perhaps recommendations on rectifying certain problems.

B8. Social and societal context. Many stakeholders are new and divers
Product: Promotion of stakeholders to talk to each other: Stakeholder meeting at the European level, as well as at the national levels.

C. Strategic questions (Niels Gotke &

Many issues have been under discussion for many years and we shouldn't repeat what has been discussed already. It is difficult that so many ministries and agencies are involved.

Lead Market Initiative. Needs more attention. Niels will contact the Austrian who has done much work. LMI is with DG Enterprise.

In agriculture many different groups have existed and some still existed. What have they produced? In de member states much work has been done. This work can be compared and contrasted with each other and also with the Commission's strategy, and OECD's work. OECD: we should involve them more. CAP Reform: how does this influence the use of biomass? This includes the use of biomass, or biodiversity on marginal land.

Products:

- Report from this group on this meeting today.
- Paper on ideas, inputs discussion issues that can be used in the MS and would be useful for the next stakeholders' conference in Ireland.
- Inventory on new initiatives, like SUSfood ERA-net that looks into use of waste > paper, running update on what is going on.
- Website with information, perhaps hosted by Julich

Resources and timeline: DK hopes that some funds can be made available from some MS and the Commission. Hopefully by this autumn this SWG should be able to deliver.

6 Any other business – announcements – finishing remarks

Important events

- Ireland: bio-economy stakeholder conference, provisional dates: 14 and 15 February 2013
- Bioeconomy Skills Conference, this autumn, Brussels
- Meeting Monday September 10: stakeholder meeting in Brussels on the PPP JTI initiative.
- October 1, COPA-COGECA meeting on the bioeconomy
- [October 8-11. Side event on Bioeconomy during the Open Days Committee of the Regions](#)

National initiatives of relevance to this group

Participants will send in half a paper on their National plan, research plans, etc, including for instance budgets, industry involvement, stakeholder participation or any other information of relevance to the work in this group or to others engaging in similar activities. This information will be sent in before next meeting

Other groups

SWG Forestry: there must be synergy with our work in this group. Jan van Esch will liaise with the Forestry SWG chair.

Participants in the SWG

Based on the participation in today's meeting and on received apologies for absence, an updated membership list is made.



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Excel-werkblad

Date of next meeting

In November a proposed working plan can be discussed and finalised this SWG. Proposed date Wednesday 28 November at KOWI, or Dutch PR.

Work tasks: parallel or subsequent?

Parallel seems to be more efficient. This would mean a good discussion now to avoid overlaps. Next meeting volunteers are needed.

Website

Germany volunteers creating a website for sharing information and as a depository of SWG documents.

Annex 1. Participants in the Kick-off Meeting

green = present

blue = has sent apologies and remains with this group

Jan van Esch	Netherlands
Eric Regouin	Netherlands
Mike Temmerman	Belgium
Isabel Roldan Ruiz	Belgium
Anne Vuylsteke	Belgium
Eva van Buggenhout	Belgium
Niels Gøtke	Danmark
Michel Knudsen	Danmark
Tanja Elisabeth Erbs	Danmark
Juan Carrasco	Spain
Sven Mutke	Spain
Egizio Valceschini	France
Corinne Bitaud	France
Dale Crammond	Ireland
Stanisław Karpíński	Poland
Bartłomiej Mazela	Poland
Zdzisław Klukowski	Poland
Süveyla Yilmaz	Turkey
Tina Lindström	Nordic Countries
Stefan Rauschen	Germany
Stefan Lampel	Germany
Philip von Bothmer	Germany
Elke Saggau	Germany
Anne Miller	United Kingdom
Barna Kovács	European Commission – DG Research & Innovation
Eveline LeCoq	European Commission – DG Research & Innovation
Jan Svensson	Sweden
Hortensia Sixto	Spain