

**DRAFT Meeting notes of the Second SWG meeting on Sustainable Biomass**

Wednesday 28 November 2012, Permanent Representation of the Netherlands in Brussels

**1 Start of the meeting - Welcome by the chair and tour de table for introduction of new participants.**

**2 Points of interest**

- Many participants of this new SWG are already working for Collaborative Working Groups or ERAnets. Therefore we need input from everyone.
- Barna Kovacs from DG Research is busy with the implementation of the Commission's Bioeconomy Strategy. At this moment the Bioeconomy Observatory and Bioeconomy Panel are implemented. The SCAR proposed some participants for the Bioeconomy Panel for the topic research and innovation. The Panel will consist of around 30 people. The selection of participants for the panel will be done by a group of experts from different DGs. The Bioeconomy observatory and panel will be presented at the Stakeholders Meeting in Dublin at the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2013.

**3 Notes of 7 september 2012 – Kick-off SWG Sustainable Biomass**

- In the meeting of 7 September 2012 it is decided that Jan van Esch will liaise with the Forestry SWG chair. He didn't have time to do it yet, so that will follow soon.
- Jan Svenson replies to this that the SWG Forestry had some delay because of the creation of the SWG on Sustainable Biomass.

**4 Presentation Corinne Bitaud (FR) about some questions on the scope of the work**

See ppt.

Proposal for a joint SWG on BE. Proposal for text:

"One of the largest challenges of the BBE is to produce sufficient (and adequate) biomass for conversion to food, chemicals (biobased products...)" → see presentation

Main sectors of BE → can be organized by adding it to different SWG. And also questions are added if GMO's, Pharmaceuticals, Biofuels are within our scope.

Is feed included in the food chain? There are also linkages between the different themes. Between the different stakeholders it is needed to have articulation, cooperation, and coordination.

**Q&A Corinne Bitaud:**

- we need to work this out, because it is very important. So we need to make clear that our scope of the bioeconomy is these four things. For this group it is most interesting to see the linkages between the four fields, that's our main focus. My personal opinion is that biofuels should be included.

- biomass forestry is an important source for biomass, so it should be included.
- it is important to crystallize what we are doing.
- A division is needed between the tasks of a strategic working group and a collaborative working group. A strategic working should have an orbit view.
- For a topic such as bioeconomy, we should have a large scope, so we see more opportunities. However we need to search for our added value as SWG. The heart of the SWG lies in the connection between the four topics, and to see the challenges and chances.
- If you are talking about the links you sound like the bioeconomy panel. You need to consider the scope of the SCAR. So you can take the first group (agriculture/forestry) as the core in relation with the other, since biomass is mostly related to that subject. Your added value is your view point from biomass. Forestry is important for the subject of biomass, so SWG on forestry should be included.
- There are different types of biomass. Some should be included some shouldn't. Do we talk about biomass broadly, so we consider all organic material? For me it should be strange to exclude biofuels, in 2020 20% of sustainable energy should be biomass based, so I strongly recommend to include this topic.
- if you focus on the production on biomass, than we need a strategic view on the flows of biomass
- We try to grasp the whole topic. So we should start with the title. If we actually start with the 'supply' than you cannot leave biofuels out. However we should focus on the different sectors instead of the products you want to produce.
- what do we mean with supply? Economicly or in volume/technical? For forestry it is very important to have a right price for the product. This is an ongoing challenge. If you use the word 'supply' in your title you should be very clear what you mean with the word.
- The liability of the supply also depends on the regulations. So it's not only a question of the free market.
- We are looking at payments for ecosystem services now so we shouldn't forget this topic.
- Do we see the use of CO2 from industrial residue streams also as biomass? Since biomass is also based on CO2.
- Jan Svenson: we shouldn't exclude any ecosystem services and which impacts it will have. So I would like to have an ongoing discussion about the sustainability issues and not only focus on economy and markets.

Conclusion (for now): we agree that the scope is large. So forestry and biofuels are in. Our scope is agricultural research. We start with biomass production and we look at old and new markets where biomass can go to, that is the bioeconomy. We shouldn't sit on the chair of the bioeconomy panel.

## **5 Dale Crammond: presentation on national bioeconomy plan in Ireland**

See ppt: [Ireland and the Bioeconomy SCAR Biomass 2012.ppt](#)

.An overview of what we do on bioeconomy in Ireland. Food production is still the driving force of the bioeconomy. The sectors related to the bioeconomy are important for the Irish economy. The Research Prioritisation Steering Group wrote a report on the 4 priorities: Sustainable food production/processing, foods for health, marine renewable energy and smart cities. The action plan for jobs (2012) defined key areas within the bioeconomy: invest in skills/infrastructure, supporting start-ups, building competitive advantage, developing green economy strategy. The bioeconomy strategy will be part of the green economy strategy. We believe that agriculture is main part of this bioeconomy.

In 2011 we produced a paper on food harvest in 2020. So it is about processing of bioproducts. Processing needs to develop along the research. In July 2012 a similar research document is produced on marine research.

On the 14/15 February Bioeconomy Stakeholder Conference. Focus on 3 pillars: Growth/competitiveness, investing in research/innovation/skills, reinforced policy interaction and stakeholder engagement. SCAR will be represented.

In 2013: setup of national strategy and bioeconomy platform, invest in R, D &I, stakeholder events, training, support new startup companies, contribute EIP, JPI, ERANets, KIC Food4Future.

## **6 Presentation and discussion of the concept workplan, Juan Carrasco**

See ppt: [SCAR-SWG biomass meeting 2811012.ppt](#)

Sustainable biomass production.

A1. Inventory of sustainability criteria and proposal for further actions.

A2. Business cases: whole sustainable commercial biomass chains evaluation

A3. Comparative critical analysis of the sustainability of biomass processes and technologies applied to different EU biomass sectors.

Not yet realistic evidence that second generation biorefineries will create commercial opportunities for the future. There are still many uncertainties on sustainable supply, economic value, energy balance.

### **Q&A presentation Juan Carrasco:**

- Should be in contact with the bioeconomy observatory to know what they are doing and what we could do.
- there is already there, because it is a big work load so we should use the existing knowledge

- one of the main dilemma using sustainability as criteria, pamphlet with subsidies for research on sustainability research
- I only hear about economic sustainability. So I miss the environmental sustainability on the biomass production and transformation. (some people make remarks and agree with it, integrated approach is needed)
- we should include environmental criteria into the proposal.
- I want to say again, we should really think about what we consider sustainable. We need workshops to work this out, there are too many examples that this is not done.

Everyone who has suggestions for the work Juan presented, please send it to Juan. So please send also your suggestions on sustainability criteria.

## **7 Presentation and discussion of the concept workplan part B, Corinne Bitaud**

See ppt (nothing received)

Part B: Biomass production and processing, including food

B1. Smart design of agriculture and forestry

B2. Smart use of biomass

B3. Regulatory impacts

B4. Social and Societal context

Jan van Esch: we need to separate the groups to devide the workload. So contact Juan or Corinne if you already know in which group you would like to participate.

### **Presentation polish areas of interest divined on their research plan.**

See ppt: PL\_281112\_SCAR.ppt

#### **Q&A**

- the importance of which elements are included when looking at sustainability is stresses. This is a key issue.
- this is very important and this will be discussed in the group of Juan.
- we could create a new line to work on these issues.
- behind the three working packages there are several developments and subjects we have to put in place.

-LUNCH-

## **8 Discussion on workplan part C, Niels Götke and Jan van Esch**

A summary of workplan part C is distributed on paper. Jan van Esch presents the workplan part C.

(document will be sent by Jan van Esch)

Strategic questions

C1: Communications

One of the actions is a website. Kovacs said that it would be interesting to also show the view of the member states since that is the strength of this group.

C2. Stakeholder involvement

A stakeholder meeting will be organized

C3. Strategic questions

This document will be worked out further. So if someone is interested to contribute in this please let Jan van Esch know.

**Q&A:**

There is some criticism about the line in which a definition of the bioeconomy is mentioned in part C3. Jan van Esch replies that the scope that is decided upon in agenda point 4 will be included.

- suggestions to also look at the different definitions used by the different member states.
- Suggestion to join stakeholder conference.
- it is important to also think about who are the stakeholders. For a workshop it is important to also have a right mix for a workshop.

## **9 Short presentation of the national programs for bioeconomy**

**Italy:** presentation by Marcello Mastrorilli

Ppt: [Mastrorilli. Italy.ppt](#)

**Germany:** Philip van Bothmer

Activities under agricultural ministry. Scientific program on renewable resources. Projects need to address: contribute to raw materials/ energy, save resource and decrease CO<sub>2</sub>, increase competitiveness. Currently also energy and climate fund. Breeding for energy crops for intelligent solutions for renewable energy. Development for conversion routes from algae. Nutrient effect of biomass transformation plants. Managed by agency for renewable resources.

Activities under research department. National research strategy for 2030. Five priorities: securing nation nutrition, agricultural production.

Increasing sustainability, environmental and industry. Entire value chain. Biorefineries road map defines different ways of developing biomass products. Also 'bioeconomy international', cooperation with big companies and SMEs.

There are two docs with some links with programs in Germany. **Philip van Bothmer will send these documents**

**Finland:** Presentation Tuula Nuuttinen

See ppt: [Finnish national strategy on bioeconomy.ppt](#)

National strategy on bioeconomy, for governmental decision.

**Belgium:** Belgium doesn't have a bioeconomy strategy yet. I am only speaking on the Wallone part of Belgium. We are trying to get a common approach. Biobased chemicals, life cycle analysis. We will start a reflection group for implementing the bioeconomy in this region.

**UK:** Presentation by Anne Miller

See ppt: [UK Bioeconomy and SAFIP.ppt](#)

Parallel developments on bioeconomy: industrial lead, governmental lead. A strategy will come out of this in 2013 and also the research areas will be part of this.

The SAF-IP has a broad scope, all based on innovation.

**Sweden:** Jan Svenson

'Swedish research and innovation strategy on biobased economy'. It's an overview strategy. Based on the strategy a first call is established. The call is based on the biobased strategy. First challenges: replacing fossil, smarter use, changing habits/habitats, choice of measures. We want transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary research based on this.

**France:** Corinne Bitaud, ministry of agriculture

Scope questions, so which topics are included in different programs.

See ppt: [nothing received yet](#)

**Denmark:** Ida Marie Retoft

See doc: [Bioeconomy Denmark.doc](#)

7 growth teams for key economic areas.

**Turkey:** Sevgi Poyrazengin

See doc: [nothing received yet](#)

**Spain:** Juan Carrasco

At this moment no official strategy. But recently we have a research plan. It recognizes the bioeconomy as an important development. Hopefully in the next year we have more clear status.

Bioenergy plant: biomass has lost relevance, because of offshore energy and thermal techniques.

See ppt: [PER 2011-2020 Bioenergy spain.ppt](#)

**NL.:** Jan van Esch

The Netherlands is a small country with expensive land. For that reason biomass is not so interesting for biofuels, because of the low production and high cost. Government targets are to work on the added value. So the focus is on food production and the biobased industry since it's a high end side of biomass. For this we use the cascading model. Biogas is also an important target. We have too much manure, so therefore we are very interested in these techniques. Also algae is interesting for us. At this moment most of the biomass is imported. Since the Rotterdam harbour is the biggest biobased harbour, we are also critical about criteria for biomass.

Funding changed dramatically, the government decided to support the sectors that are growing and have a competition value. Biobased products are seen as top consortia for knowledge and innovation. Three parties are working together on this consortium to fund research and innovation.

## **10 Next steps, next meeting.**

The Bioeconomy Stakeholders Conference is on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2013. So Dale Crammond invites us to Dublin for the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the SWG on Sustainable biomass on the **12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of February in Dublin**. We will start at around 1 pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> and will go on until the the afternoon 15<sup>th</sup>. Further details will be send by email.

Activities to be prepared for the next meeting:

- The groups will work further on the the A, B and C workplans. If people would like to contribute, please contact the responsible persons.
- Sustainability definition issue.
- For the brochure on countries biobased policies we would like to collect examples of bioeconomy initiatives in the different countries.

**Annex 1. Participants in the second SWG on Sustainable Biomass**

**Yellow:** present at the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2012

<b>NL</b>	Jan VAN ESCH Nicolein Blanksma
<b>BE</b>	Mike TEMMERMAN
	Anne Vuylsteke
	Isabel Roldan Ruiz
	Eva VAN BUGGENHOUT
<b>DK</b>	Niels Gøtke
	Tanja Elisabeth ERBS
	Ida Marie Retoft
	Erik Steen Kristensen
	Michel Knudsen
<b>ES</b>	Juan CARRASCO
	Hortensia Sixto
	Sven Mutke
<b>FR</b>	Egizio VALCESCHII
	Corinne BITAUD
<b>IE</b>	Dale CRAMMOND
<b>PO</b>	Stanisław KARPÍNSKI
	Bartłomiej MAZELA
	Zdzisław KLUKOWSKI
<b>TR</b>	Süveyla YILMAZ
	Sevgi Poyrazengin
<b>NO</b>	Tina Lindström
<b>DE</b>	Dr. Stefan Rauschen
	Philip von Bothmer
	Stefan Lamepl
	Johannes Bender
	Dr. Elke SAGGAU
<b>SE</b>	Jan Svenson
<b>IT</b>	Dr. Alberto Masci
	Marcello Mastrolli
<b>FI</b>	Prof. Tuula Nuutinen



UK	Anne MILLER
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