

# **Report on 3<sup>rd</sup> Mandate (Jan 2020-Dec 2022) Strategic Working Group on Bioeconomy**

## **Introduction**

After two mandates, focussing primarily on research, fact finding, policy and regulation, the Bioeconomy Strategic Working Group (BSW) group started its third mandate in January 2020. The added value of such a group on the bioeconomy lies in the integration of very different scientific and technological areas and the respective policy areas, which separate working groups on specific aspects cannot achieve in this way. There is a high need for a strategic discussion between Member States (MS), Associated Countries (AC) and the European Commission (EC) on the impacts and implications of the further development of a sustainable (circular) bioeconomy on research and innovation, policy alignment and regulation.

The BSW had and still has the ambition to be one of the central platforms for MS/AC in Europe overseeing and working together with different initiatives on national and European level. The aim is to provide a space for an open exchange between the Member States and, based on the discussions, to deliver recommendations and advice to the EU on actions needed from a MS/AC perspective, especially related to research and innovation policies in the Bioeconomy domain.

## **Organisation & Group meetings**

Under the third mandate, the BSW has been coordinated by two equally responsible co-chairs; Sascha Bollerman (Netherlands) and Alexandros Theodoridis (Germany). MS/AC of the BSW during the 3<sup>rd</sup> mandate were: AT, BE, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, NL, NO, PL, RO, SE, SK, TR and UK. DG RTD.B.2 / DG RTD.B.1 were the main contacts. DG AGRI and the JRC were invited to participate in the meetings of the group. Other DGs, the Chair of the BBI JU State Representatives Group or other initiatives have been invited to participate in meetings when deemed relevant.

Due to the COVID-pandemic all group meetings took place only digitally (for meeting dates see table activities and achievements).

## **Extension period (2022)**

At the end of 2021, the BSW requested a one-year extension from the SCAR plenary. The extension period focused mainly on the search for new chairs, the definition of new tasks and the elaboration of the new terms of reference for a fourth mandate. Three colleagues volunteered to take over chairing the BSW: Johanna Kohl (Finland), Martin Behrens (Germany) and Luka Juvančič (Slovenia). The new ToR and workplan for the upcoming period were developed together with the group and the European Commission and were adopted by the SCAR plenary in Dec 2022.

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## Activities and achievements

Date	Subject	Place	Product
Mar 2020	BSW group meeting on actions for third mandate	online	Minutes
Jun 2020	Participation in JRC 'community of practice' workshop on the EU Bioeconomy monitoring system	online	BSW input to EU monitoring system
Dec 2020	Workshop on the integration of Bioeconomy in National Strategic Plans for CAP and BSW group meeting	online	Policy Paper
Apr 2021	BSW group meeting	online	Minutes
Jun 2021	Workshop 'Integrating the agricultural primary sector in the sustainable bio-based economy'	online	Minutes
Feb 2022	1 <sup>st</sup> BSW group meeting under extension period – future of the group / preparation of next mandate	online	Minutes
Nov 2022	2 <sup>nd</sup> BSW group meeting under extension period – future of the group / preparation of next mandate	online	Minutes