

PRESS RELEASE

BIC Announces New SIRA Roadmap to Develop Europe's Bioeconomy

Brussels, 21 June 2017 – To help build a resource-efficient, circular and bio-based economy, the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC) has announced its new Strategic and Research Agenda (SIRA). The SIRA identifies the activities needed to speed up the development of sustainable and competitive bio-based industries in Europe. SIRA reflects BIC's ambition to transform Europe into a world leading bioeconomy.

The updated SIRA addresses the technological and innovation challenges facing the bio-based industries, takes a 'multi-value-chain' approach and integrates new feedstocks such as aquatic-based sources, bio-waste (including from food processing) and CO₂. It also considers the aims of BIC's newest members, as well as technology and market developments since the first Agenda was adopted in 2013. The SIRA identifies the research and innovation actions needed to deliver tangible and increasingly ambitious environmental, social and economic benefits by 2020 and 2030.

Bio-based value chains are at the heart of the SIRA, which is founded on four key pillars:

- Fostering a supply of sustainable biomass feedstock for both existing and new value chains
- Optimising efficient processing for integrated biorefineries through research, development and innovation (R&D&I)
- Developing innovative bio-based products for identified market applications
- Creating and accelerating market uptake of bio-based products and applications

John Bell, Director for Bioeconomy, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission said, "The latest SIRA is designed to attract new industrial sectors and stimulate closer collaboration between different industries. It envisages the creation of novel value chains, making it easier for the Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU) to fully support the development of a circular bioeconomy, while enabling Europe to achieve its climate goals and the objectives of the Juncker Plan – to boost investment, sustainable growth and job creation."

Mat Quaedvlieg, Vice President Strategic Business Projects at Sappi, and Chair of the BIC and BBI JU Governing Boards said, "Since the start of the BBI JU, new value chains have emerged using feedstocks from the food processing sector, the aquatic-based sector, and even bio-waste and CO₂. More and more industrial sectors are collaborating on BBI JU projects, seizing the opportunity to create value from waste and side streams. This growth will speed up the development of an innovative, sustainable and competitive European economy, in line with the European Bioeconomy Strategy."

Read the revised SIRA:

<http://biconsortium.eu/sites/biconsortium.eu/files/downloads/SIRA-2017-Web.pdf>

About the Bio-based Industries Consortium

The Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC) is a non-profit organisation based in Brussels. It represents the private sector in a public-private partnership (PPP) with the EU on Bio-based Industries (BBI). Worth €3.7 billion, the partnership mobilises investment in innovative facilities and processes that manufacture high-quality bio-based products as well as in biorefining research and demonstration projects.

BIC is host to a unique mix of sectors that currently covers agriculture, agro-food, forestry, pulp and paper, chemicals, energy and other manufacturing sectors. With over 200 members including large companies, SMEs, SME Clusters, RTOs, universities, technology platforms and associations spread across Europe, BIC brings together an authoritative pool of cross sector and multi-disciplinary expertise in the field of bio-based industries.

<http://biconsortium.eu/>

Media Contact

Suzy Renckens

BIC Public Affairs & Communications

suzy.renckens@biconsortium.eu