

## Memorandum of Understanding

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| <b>BETWEEN</b> | The Bio-based Industries Consortium - BIC (and referred to as “BIC” hereafter)           |
| <b>AND</b>     | Vanguard Initiative - Bioeconomy Pilot (and referred to as “Bioeconomy Pilot” hereafter) |
| <b>DATE</b>    | 21 June 2016   |

WHEREAS BIC is a cross sector and industry driven association that was set up to become the private partner in the European Public-Private Partnership on Bio-based Industries (BBI JU). The aim of the BBI is to trigger investments and create a competitive market for bio-based products and materials sourced locally and “Made in Europe”, tackling some of Europe’s biggest societal challenges.

€3.7 billion will be injected into the European economy between 2014 and 2024 (€975 million from the European Commission and €2.7 billion from BIC members) to further develop an emerging bioeconomy sector. Through the funding of research and innovation projects, the BBI will create new and novel partnerships across sectors, including agriculture, agro-food, biotechnology, technology providers, forestry/pulp and paper, chemicals, energy, and other manufacturing sectors.

The BBI aims to create close to 1 million jobs by 2030, most of which in rural areas. Imports can be reduced dramatically and bio-based products can cut our carbon footprint by at least 50% in comparison to fossil alternatives.

WHEREAS the Vanguard Initiative is a European network of industrial regions that seeks to speed up the market uptake of new technologies through the establishment of industry-led, cross regional joint-demonstration platforms. The network has initiated five thematic pilots to explore opportunities for developing interregional joint-demonstration.

The Vanguard Initiative Bioeconomy Pilot aims to promote the development of new bio-based value chains and cases for joint demonstration in Europe, by supporting networking and cooperation between companies, RTOs and regions, taking pilot and demonstration activities to a higher interregional level, thereby creating more critical mass, exploiting complementary assets and accelerating technological developments.

WHEREAS regions and regional socio-economic actors have a crucial role to play in the implementation of S3 strategies. European structural and investment funds are an important instrument for the realisation of the Bio-based Industries’ Strategic Innovation and Research Agenda (SIRA), and in the deployment of the bioeconomy in Europe as a whole.

## **THE PARTIES HAVE AGREED THE FOLLOWING:**

### **1. Awareness raising activities on BIC and the Bioeconomy Pilot**

Communication and awareness raising activities are important to create a common level of understanding on the pertinence of the bioeconomy and bio-based industries for regional, national and European sustainable growth and jobs strategies.

Mobilising regional stakeholders that can actively contribute to feeding and/or deploying the bio-based industries' strategic innovation and research agenda is necessary to achieve a truly pan-European impact.

BIC and the Bioeconomy Pilot will work together on targeting key audiences and on common participation in events or conferences, partnering platforms, and common visibility in appropriate communication channels and materials.

### **2. Synergies and co-funding opportunities**

The alignment of political objectives within the various sources of EU funding is encouraged at the highest European political level.

BIC and the Bioeconomy Pilot will work together as equal partners on both improving access and strengthen synergies between different financing instruments (e.g. European and regional), based on mutual interest and in line with the common goal to create a more favourable investment environment for bio-based industries in Europe.

### **3. Connect actors across regions and sectors along new value chains**

BIC and the Bioeconomy Pilot both invite relevant actors from different regions and different sectors active along specific bio-based value chains to connect and to explore how the combination of different strengths can lead to a faster deployment of new technologies and shorten the time-to-market.

Potential benefits of such new (interregional) partnerships include exploiting complementarities, the pooling of scarce R&D&I resources, the opening and sharing of specialised infrastructure, the access to a larger community of end-users, sharing good practices and jointly addressing non-technological issues.

BIC and the Bioeconomy Pilot will work together closely and exchange information concerning the BBI topics and the Bioeconomy Pilot's cases for joint demonstration in order to exploit all potential synergies.

Signed in Brussels on 21 June 2016,



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Mr. G. Fava  
Regional Minister for Agriculture  
Lombardy Region  
(co-leading region Bioeconomy Pilot)

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Mr. D. Carrez  
Executive Director  
Bio-based Industries Consortium

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Mr. R. van der Helm  
Deputy Secretary-General  
Province of Zuid-Holland (Randstad  
region)  
(co-leading region Bioeconomy Pilot)

**NB:** The Bioeconomy Pilot is no legal  
entity. Support from various other  
Bioeconomy Pilot regions can be found  
in the annex

**Annex:**  
Letters of Support from various European regions currently active in the Vanguard  
Initiative Bioeconomy Pilot