

Brussels, 13 March 2023

His Excellency Mr. Torbjörn Haak
Deputy Permanent representative of Sweden to the EU

Subject: Draft Conclusions on the opportunities of the bioeconomy in the light of current challenges with special emphasis on rural areas

Excellency,

We have been informed that the Council of the European Union was considering adopting conclusions on the opportunities of the bioeconomy in the light of the current challenges, under the aegis of your Presidency.

As sector groups of Cefic (The European Council of Chemical Industries) representing the leading producers of biobased chemicals in Europe, we warmly welcome the forthcoming adoption of these conclusions. We share the vision that a blossoming bioeconomy is instrumental to achieving many of the EU ambitions, especially on the climate front, but also to ensure rural livelihoods and increase Europe's strategic autonomy.

We wish that the ongoing discussions will allow you to consider and include the following aspects as well:

- The contribution of the bioeconomy to the “defossilisation” of the economy and to sustainable carbon cycles
- The contribution of the bioeconomy to reducing the dependence of Europe on imports of raw materials, products and energy, in particular fossil ones, from overseas, drawing lessons from the Covid outbreak and, more recently, of the attack on Ukraine
- The positive contribution that biobased, and/or biodegradable and/or compostable materials can offer to reduce negative impacts on the environment, e.g., the presence of persistent microplastics in soils
- The importance of lifting the regulatory bottlenecks to innovation, scale-up and investments into the bioeconomy in Europe
- The urgency to improve the knowledge- and data-base on the bioeconomy in Europe, since better data will be instrumental to providing evidence of the sustainability, market relevance and many economic, social and environmental amenities that the bioeconomy can provide to Europe
- The need to secure a stable, fair and competitive access to carbon neutral energy and bio-based raw materials, as a precondition to attract production investments in Europe

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- The importance of including bioeconomy in legally binding rules to support the transition to and market uptake of European innovative bio-based solutions.
- Ideally, since the bioeconomy is no longer a “niche” component of the European economy but increasingly mainstream, the importance of shifting the leadership on the Bioeconomy within the European Institutions, and particularly within the Commission, from research and innovation to internal market, industry and entrepreneurship.

We are of course at your disposal to further exchange on these various topics and look forward to a successful adoption of these conclusions.

Sincerely yours,

Hendrik Huesken
President of APAG

Ylwa Alwarsdotter
Chair of BioChem Europe

Josef Gass
Chair of EFG

 <p>A sector group of Cefic, representing the European oleochemical Industry and a long-established sector of the European Bioeconomy. Since the early 19th century, the oleochemical industry has been using rendered animal fats cat. 3 and vegetable oils to manufacture bio-based products used for candles, paint, detergents, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and many other applications.</p>	 <p>As a sector group of Cefic, BioChem Europe ambitions to boost the development of sustainable biomass-derived chemical industries in Europe.</p>	 <p>European Fermentation Group</p>  <p>The European Fermentation Group is the voice of the European fermentation industry vis-à-vis EU institutions, national governments, and civil society. The main objective of the EFG is to ensure that EU policies promote the competitiveness of the fermentation industry contributing to the development of a sustainable European bioeconomy. Our companies mainly produce citric acid, lactic acid, vitamins, amino acids for animal feed and penicillin for antibiotics.</p>
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