

BIO east

FORESIGHT CONFERENCE

Climate-neutral future depends on sustainable bioeconomies



High-level foresight conference on positioning sustainable and circular bioeconomies in Central and Eastern Europe to achieve climate neutrality by 2050

27 September 2021

Hybrid event in Ljubljana, Slovenia

Draft Programme



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Moderator: Igor Evgen Bergant

9:30–10:00 Welcome

Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

Jože Podgoršek, Slovenian Minister of Agriculture

István Nagy, Hungarian Minister of Agriculture

10:00–11:00 1st Session: *Transformation: what the report says?*

10:00–10:15 Keynote: The role of research in the transition towards sustainable bioeconomy:

Gianluca Brunori, University of Pisa, Chair of SCAR 5th Foresight Group, Chair of FACCE JPI Scientific Advisory Board

10:15–11:00 BIOEAST Foresight Report: Ladeja Godina Košir, Chair of the Foresight Experts Group, Founder and Executive Director of Circular Change Slovenia

Debate with the five foresight experts and the keynote speaker:

Gianluca Brunori

Ladeja Godina Košir

József Popp, Professor and Dean at Szent István University, Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Hungary

Małgorzata Zimniewska, Director of the Institute of Natural Fibers and Medicinal Plants, Poland

George Sakellaris, Academy of Sciences in Czech Republic

Rando Värnik, Chair Holder of Rural Economics in the Estonian University of Life Sciences

11:00–11:15 Coffee break



- 11:15–12:30 2nd Session: Resilience: how to adapt the policies?**
- 11:15–11:25 Keynote: Deploying the Bioeconomy in the EU: A framework approach for bioeconomy strategy development:** **Patrick Barrett** (tbc), Agricultural Inspector at the Irish Government Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and Independent Expert in the European Commission's bioeconomy Mutual Learning Exercise
- 11:25–11:35 Reflection of the BIOEAST Advisory Council on the BIOEAST Foresight:** **Robert Mavsar**, Chair of the BIOEAST Advisory Council, and Deputy Director of the European Forest Institute
- 11:35–11:45 Reflection of the BIOEAST Board on the BIOEAST Foresight:** **Barna Kovács**, Secretary-General of the BIOEAST Initiative
- 11:45–12:00 Bioeconomy in the context of the European Green Deal:** **Peter Wehrheim**, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
- 12:00–12:30 Debate with the four discussants based on questions from audience**
- 12:30–13:30 Lunch break**
- 13:30–15:00 Parallel thematic sessions: Internalization – How to bring forward the findings?**
- 13:30–13:40 Common Keynote: Macro-regional analyses, some key characteristics, statistical evidence about BIOEAST countries' bioeconomies:** **Luka Juvančič**, associate professor, University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty
- 1. Agroecology and sustainable yields**
- 13:40–13:45 Future challenges in agriculture:** **Anikó Juhász** (tbc), Deputy State Secretary, Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture
- 13:45–13:55 Main future research directions in agroecology:** **Korinna Varga** (tbc), (ÖMKI)
- 13:55–14:05 Ecological outlook/perspectives, the role and future impact of agroecology on biodiversity and ecosystem services (opportunities and challenges):** **András Báldi** (tbc), member of the Academia Europaea
- 14:05–15:00 Debate with speakers based on Q&A**



2. Food systems

13:40–15:00 Presentations and debate with speakers based on Q&A

3. Forestry value chain

13:40–13:45 **Introduction on forests and forestry in Slovenia** (video): **Tomaž Remic**, Slovenian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food

13:45–13:55 **Future challenges in the forestry sector**: **Nike Krajnc**, Slovenian Forestry Institute

13:55–14:10 **CoE InnoRenew and forthcoming challenges in the wood processing sector**: **Andreja Kutnar**, CoE InnoRenew, Slovenia

14:10–14:25 **CoE LignoSilva – new technologies in wood processing value chains**: **Tomáš Bucha**, CoE LignoSilva, Slovakia

14:25–15:00 Debate with speakers based on Q&A

4. Fresh water value chain

13:40–15:00 Presentations and debate with speakers based on Q&A

5. Bioenergy and new value added products

13:40–15:00 Presentations and debate with speakers based on Q&A

6. Advanced bio-based chemicals and materials

13:40–13:50 **Global trends and driver of advanced bio-based chemicals and materials**: **Ramani Narayan**, Professor at University of Michigan

13:50–14:00 **Introduction to the EU policies and tenders focusing on biorefinery concept and new advanced materials. In which areas need a change of mindset to improve the R&I effectiveness of the CEE macro region?:** **Policy Expert** (tbc)

14:00–14:10 **How the chemical industry prepares for the European carbon neutrality target date of 2050? What are the main challenges from the chemical industry perspective with particular regard to the R&D&I needs?:** **Jens Hamprecht or Catherine Schäfer** (tbc), BASF

14:10–14:20 **Main findings of the EU Biorefinery Outlook to 2030:** **Richard Platt**, E4tech expert

14:20–15:00 Debate with speakers based on Q&A



7. Education and skills

13:40–13:55 **Iris Lewandowski**, Professor and Chair of Bioeconomy Office, University of Hohenheim (Part of the European Bioeconomy University)

13:55–14:10 **Simon Heath**, Board member of the European CoP on Bioeconomy Education and Secretary General of the European Life Sciences Universities (ICA)

14:10–15:00 Debate with speakers based on Q&A

15:00–15:30 Conference conclusion

John Bell, Director, Healthy Planet Directorate, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

István Szabó, Deputy Director, Hungarian National Office for Research and Innovation

Slovenian representative

15:30–17:00 Reception

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