

BSW policy documents on Bioeconomy and Circular Economy

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SCAR
Standing Committee
on Agricultural Research
Bioeconomy Strategic Working Group



Policy Documents overview

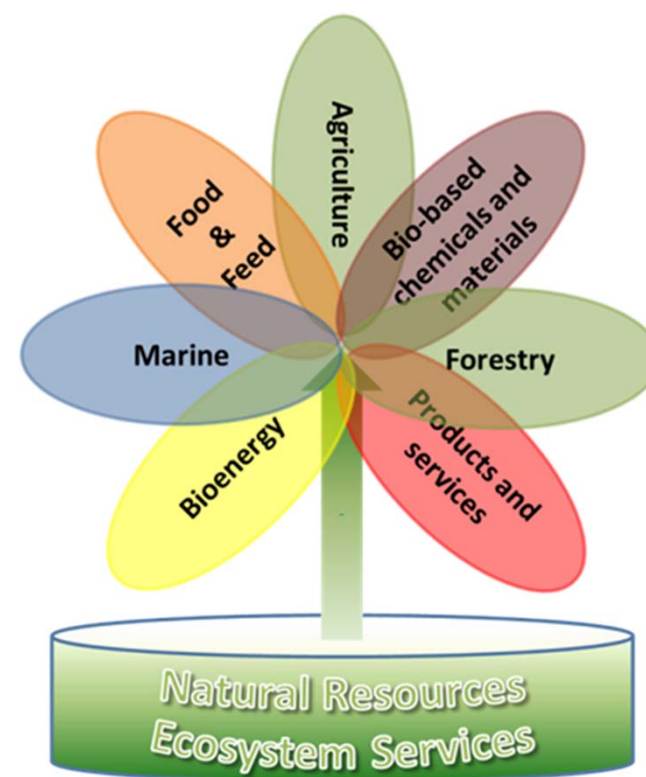
- **Policy Brief on the Future of the European Bioeconomy Strategy** (available for download: <https://www.scar-swg-sbgb.eu>)
 - work began in February 2017
 - presented at SCAR Plenary on 21 June 2017
- **Technical note on relationship between Bioeconomy and Circular Economy** (to be finalized)
 - work began in June 2017
 - to be presented at SCAR Plenary on 6 December 2017

Policy Brief on the Future of the European Bioeconomy Strategy

- **Based on discussions during meeting in Paris on 23/24 February 2017 (14 MS/AC present)**
 - MS/AC had to answer a questionnaire before the meeting and present results
 - answers were synthesised
 - World café session for discussion
 - start of drafting of Policy Brief (main lines of argumentation, key messages)
 - follow-up by writing team with commenting rounds

Policy Brief on the Future of the European Bioeconomy Strategy

- The need for a new or updated bioeconomy strategy and action plan from the perspective of SCAR BSW
- Definition of bioeconomy at EU and MS level: are we talking about the same things?
- Importance of a Bioeconomy Strategy in relation to other policy strategies such as the Circular Economy Strategy, Sustainable Development Goals, ...
- Governance
- Conclusions: What are, from the perspective of the SCAR BSW, the needs of the MS/AC in the revised Bioeconomy Strategy and Action Plan



Policy Brief on the Future of the European Bioeconomy Strategy

- **Conclusions: What are, from the perspective of the SCAR BSW, the needs of the MS/AC in the revised Bioeconomy Strategy and Action Plan**
 - [...] must provide a **broader definition of the bioeconomy**, in which nature-inspired ideas are valorised and insights from nature are applied to other industrial sectors.
 - [...] must allow the bioeconomy to **make connections with other industrial sectors as well** (such as construction, engineering, manufacturing, ICT, urban planning), highlighting the concrete contributions of the sustainable bioeconomy to making human activity **more environmentally friendly, more circular, more bio-based, more nature-inspired, more inclusive and more competitive**. In sum: more sustainable.
 - [...] **must be made a priority!** This requires commitment and tailored coherence between different policy areas and the responsible parts of the Administration (on the national as well as the EU level). It also requires meaningful stakeholder engagement and communication strategies.

Policy Brief on the Future of the European Bioeconomy Strategy

- **Conclusions: contd.**
 - **Funding for the bioeconomy needs to increase all along the innovation network;**
 - **[...] greater emphasis should be placed especially on (small-scale) demonstration and pilot plants. Synergies with other funding instruments and mechanisms must be developed (e.g., ESIF, EUROSTARS, EFSI). Research should not only cover natural sciences but also social and economic sciences, consumer behaviour/attitudes, impact assessments and monitoring.**
 - **A mechanism for continuous scanning and foresight** should be established in order to steer activities in response to future developments and changing boundary conditions.
 - **[...] carry out a pre-assessment of both hard and soft measures to bring forward the bioeconomy.** Soft measures [...] include awareness raising activities to create markets for bioeconomy products, support to start-up companies, SME-targeted instruments, standardisation, certification and promotion activities (such as prizes for the most innovative ideas/products/services). Hard measures [...] include carbon pricing and internalising external costs, legislation, public procurement policies and other initiatives levelling the playing field.

Technical note on relationship between Bioeconomy and Circular Economy

- **Based on discussions during meeting in Helsinki on 7 June 2017 (14 MS/AC present)**
 - **Inputs from 1st World Circular Economy Forum**
 - **MS/AC were asked for their views before the meeting**
 - **World café session for discussions**
 - **Start of drafting of Technical Note (main lines of argumentation, key messages)**
 - **Follow-up by writing team with commenting rounds**

Technical note on relationship between Bioeconomy and Circular Economy

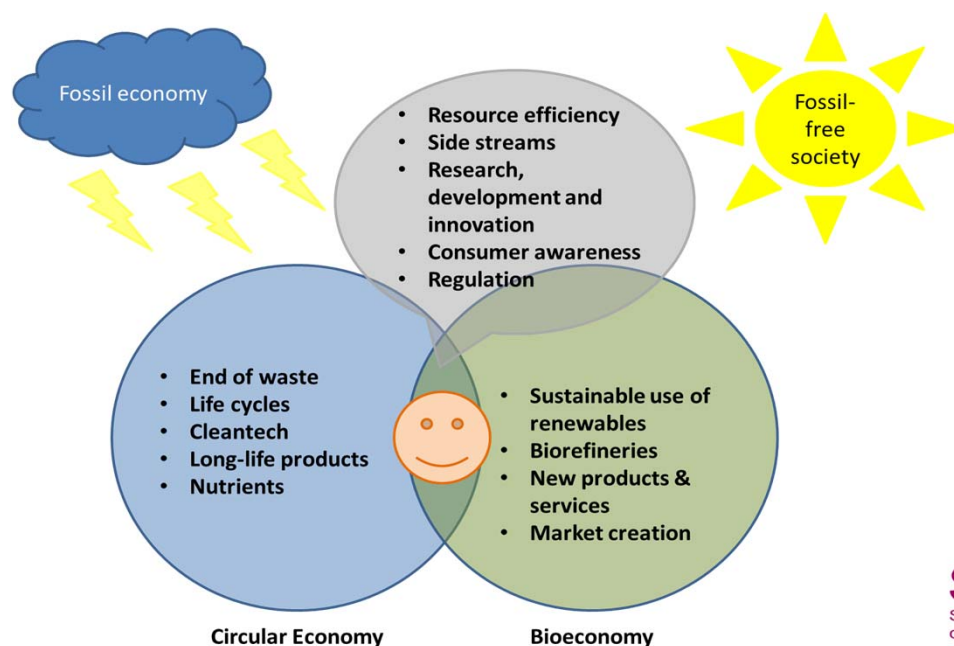
- **Main points:**

- The BSW sees **clear overlaps between the two concepts and highlights the need for a coordinated implementation** [...] in order to make full use of the potential synergies and the shared policy drivers, goals, barriers and strategies.
- [...] Circular Economy and Bioeconomy are **complementary and can benefit from each other** as they both address the three pillars of sustainability.
- Both concepts **mutually reinforce each other** and developed together would allow to develop a sustainable economy that efficiently uses renewable, sustainably produced resources and maintains them in the economic cycle as long as possible.
- The BSW sees a need to **establish a concept-wise clarity of both, Bioeconomy and Circular Economy, at European level. The goals of the Bioeconomy and the Circular Economy should be interlinked.** After this, there would be a possibility for combined instruments, e.g. in research and innovation funding and legislation.

Technical note on relationship between Bioeconomy and Circular Economy

- **Main points:**

- **More interaction** between Circular Economy and Bioeconomy policy makers would be useful.
- Also, there is a need for a **more strategic platform** identified to jointly discuss Bioeconomy and Circular Economy.



THANK YOU

For your attention

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