



Press Release

Europe promotes bioeconomy

The Manifesto of the European Bioeconomy, officially published on 16/11/2017, sets out how Europe plans to develop this huge industry. It was drafted by the members of the European Bioeconomy Stakeholders Panel, representatives of large and small companies, non-governmental organizations, biomass producers, regions and academics from all over Europe.

Among them, Dr. Ioannis Fallas, Director of the Cluster of Bioenergy and Environment of Western Macedonia, acts as the national representative of Greece in this panel and actively contributed to drafting the Manifesto for the Bio-Economy in the European Union.

The final text of the European Bioeconomy Manifesto was presented to Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, as part of the Bioeconomy Policy Day on Thursday 16 November in Brussels.

Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: "Facing the current challenges of food security, climate change and industrial transformation, we have the responsibility to figure out how to best deal with the biological resources we have and how to put them to the best use. In the past five years, the EU has made major progress in this respect. We have taken stock of this progress to make sure that we focus our efforts in the right direction in this diverse and fast-changing part of the economy. "

The review shows that the EU has successfully mobilized funding for research and innovation in this area. EU specific funding for the bio-economy has more than doubled from EUR 1.9 billion in the Seventh Framework Program (2007-2013) to EUR 4.52 billion in the Horizon 2020 program (2014-2020).

Through its strategy for the bio-economy in 2012, Europe has made significant progress towards a more innovative, resource-efficient society. The strategy promotes the substitution of mineral resources while addressing the sustainable supply of bio-resources and food security in the face of climate change and an increase in the world's population. However, it is now time to accelerate this process.

The Commission's PPPs with industry - such as the Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking - are an important step in leveraging private investment. It provides good examples of how the bioeconomy can help local economies transforming old industrial areas while creating specialized green jobs.

In addition, the review concludes that EU Member States and regions are increasingly benefiting from the opportunities offered by the bio-economy. On the other hand, it also recognizes that further investment mobilization and a stable regulatory environment are still needed to scale up and develop existing and new technologies. It also requires better policy coherence and improved monitoring and evaluation of progress.

More about the European Union Bioeconomy Panel and the entire manifesto can be found here:

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/bioeconomy/index.cfm?pg=policy&lib=panel#manifesto>

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