

Minutes

SCAR Bioeconomy Strategic Working Group Meeting

04.09.2026, 13:00 – 15:00 CET (online)

Participants

Johanna Kohl (FI), Luka Juvančič (SI), Martin Behrens (DE), Kystian Butlewski (PL), Marek Veselský (DG RTD), Steliana Rodino (RO), Wiebke Müller (DE); Friedemann Kraft (DE), Richard Lange (DE), Jesus Escudero (ES), Goda Vainiene (LT), May Hobeika (DG Agri), Patrick Barrett (IR), Vilma Kraujalyte (LT), Jan Nedělník (CZ), Iris Kuhi (EE), Jana Hrenova (SK), John Bosnan (CBE JU WG Primary Producers), Julien Fosse (FR), Martin Dedina (CZ), Michael O'Donohue (FR), Miroslav Hájek (CZ), Olivia McAuliffe (IR), Rakhee O'Connell (UK), Sandi Orlic (HR), Stefano Grando (IT), Wim Haentjens (DG RTD)

Total: 27

Main Objectives of the Meeting

Updates ongoing EC Initiatives
Presentation of the Poly Crisis Policy Brief
Updates on Global Bioeconomy Summit (19.-23.10.2026)
Next Task for the WG
Presentation on CBE JU Working Group on Primary Producers Action Plan

Co-Chairs: Luka Juvančič, Martin Behrens, Johanna Kohl

Minutes by: Martin Behrens

Opening of the Meeting

Martin Behrens (DE) welcomes the SCAR WG members to the meeting. He presents the agenda. New participants introduce themselves.



News from the EC

May Hobeika (DG AGRI) provides an update on EC activities.

- ✦ New R&I Strategic Approach for agriculture, forestry, rural areas and food systems, will be presented at the EU AgRI 2040 Conference (24 – 25 September 2026, Brussels)
- ✦ Recent & upcoming policy initiatives
 - EU Fertiliser Action Plan
 - EU Lifestock Strategy
 - EU Protein Plan
 - CBE JU WG on Primary Producers
 - CAP Network activities

Wim Haentjens (DG RTD) gives an update on the implementation of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy. He stresses the importance of the used broad definition of the bioeconomy, which defines it “as activities that deliver sustainable solutions based on biological resources to create added value”. This definition requires a systemic view. When it comes to RDI this requires a perspective which goes beyond the current Cluster 6 and 5 topics. The holistic approach is also reflected in a diversified mix of R&I tools and funding instruments. Wim further gives an update on the status of some of the actions of the Bioeconomy Action Plan.

Presentation of the Poly Crisis Policy Brief

Luka Juvančič (SI) announces the finalisation of the Poly Crisis Policy Brief which was a joint effort by members of SCAR Bioeconomy, ARCH and FOREST including two stakeholder workshops. The paper is available on the SCAR Website and will be distributed with the support of RefreSCAR. A workshop is planned to discuss the findings with an international audience at the Global Bioeconomy Summit.

[Link to the paper](#)

Global Bioeconomy Summit, 20-21 October 2026

Patrick Barrett (IR) presents the programme for the summit which is available on www.gbs2026.org. The summit will be part of the Irish EU Presidency starting in the second half of 2026. Plenary sessions, side events, a fair to present projects and initiatives as well as sight visits are planned. SCAR BSWG will organise a workshop following-up the activities on the Poly Crisis. In a joint Presidency session Ireland will launch its new Bioeconomy Strategy.

Plans for 2026. What should be next on our agenda?

Martin Behrens (DE) draws the attention of the group to the active mandate and the requirements to make plans for new activities after finalisation of the Poly Crisis task. The group starts collecting ideas via a miro virtual board. The link to the board will remain open for a 2 more weeks to collect additional ideas. After this the WG Chairs will cluster results and make a proposal to the WG members on how to prioritise and select the next activities of the WG.

[Link to the miro board](#)



CBE JU WG on Primary Producers and its Action Plan

John Brosnan (Chair of the Working Group) explains the history and mandate of the Working Group on Primary Producers which was created in collaboration with DG RTD, DG Agri and the CBE JU. The working group covers the sectors forestry, agriculture & food and blue bioeconomy. The group created an Action Plan which will be implemented during the next 2 years.

Action areas include:

- ✦ Supporting tools for business development
- ✦ Knowledge sharing and collaboration
- ✦ Integrated Advisory Services
- ✦ Models of organisational cooperation

For more information see the website of the [support project RootLinks](#).

AOB and News from Member States

- ✦ Jesus Escudero (ES) draws the WG attention to the ongoing refugee crisis on Ceuta which is showing the need to invest and to pay more attention to what is happening outside Europe, especially in Africa
- ✦ Jan Nedělník (CZ) pre-announces that there will be a Czech Bioeconomy Conference in Prague organised by the Czech Bioeconomy Hub at the beginning of December

End of the Meeting

15:08 CET

