



## **Call for expression of interest for the selection of stakeholders as members of the European Union Bioeconomy Panel**

### **1. BACKGROUND**

In its Communication "Innovating for Sustainable Growth: A Bioeconomy for Europe" (COM(2012) 60 final) published on 13 February 2012, the European Commission announced the establishment of a *European Union Bioeconomy Panel* (hereafter the *Bioeconomy Panel*) with the aim to enhance synergies and coherence between policies, initiatives and economic sectors related to the bioeconomy at EU level, linking with existing mechanisms.

The mandate of the *Bioeconomy Panel* is to (1) Monitor and reflect on the implementation of the Bioeconomy Strategy in a systematic manner, with the aim to reinforce interaction between policies, initiatives and economic sectors related to the bioeconomy at EU and Member State level to improve coherence and synergies, building on the work of existing mechanisms; (2) Suggest and foster European joint actions and measures in the domain of bioeconomy; (3) Encourage the creation of bioeconomy stakeholder panels at national and regional level. Support initiatives at national and regional level, in particular for the exchange of best-practices between new and established national and regional bioeconomy strategies will be encouraged; (4) Foster collaboration between all stakeholders in the domain of the bioeconomy, to identify future actions of common interest, for example with regard to research funding and public policy.

The Commission is hereby calling for applications with the view of selecting members of the *Bioeconomy Panel*.

### **2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PANEL**

#### **2.1. Composition**

The *Bioeconomy Panel* is composed of up to 30 members with experience from different bioeconomy related areas who are nominated by the European Commission for a mandate of up to 4 years:

Up to 10 experts with experience from EU Member State administrations that are bioeconomy-relevant, with an overall balanced representation of the main bioeconomy sectors and policies and of the different Member States. The regional dimension of the bioeconomy should also be taken into account;

Up to 20 experts with experience from relevant stakeholders groups, including respectively:

- i) European industrial sector associations or companies;

- ii) Universities, research organisations and the scientific community;
- iii) European associations covering the farming, forestry and fishery sectors; and
- iv) Non-governmental organisations.

## **2.2. Terms of Appointment**

The members of the *Bioeconomy Panel* are appointed by the European Commission for a mandate of up to 4 years. Members are appointed either as:

- individuals appointed to represent a common interest shared by stakeholders in a particular policy area; they shall not represent an individual stakeholder;
- organisations, in the broad sense of the word including companies, associations, Non-Governmental-Organisations, trade unions, universities, research institutes, Union agencies, Union bodies and international organisations;
- Member States' authorities, at national, regional or local level.

A system of rotation of Panel members on a 2-year basis may be considered.

## **2.3. Modus operandi**

The *Bioeconomy Panel* shall be chaired by the European Commission.

The work of the *Bioeconomy Panel* shall be supported by the Secretariat, provided by the European Commission.

The *Bioeconomy Panel* shall meet in plenary session at least twice a year. Additional meetings could be scheduled on an *ad-hoc* basis.

Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by the members of the *Bioeconomy Panel* in the activities of the group shall be reimbursed by the Commission in accordance with the provisions in force and within the limits of the available budgetary appropriations. The members of the *Bioeconomy Panel* will receive no remuneration for their duties.

## **2.4. Confidentiality**

The members of the *Bioeconomy Panel* shall comply with the obligations of professional secrecy laid down by the Treaties and their implementing rules, as well as with the Commission's rules on security regarding the protection of EU classified information, laid down in the Annex to Commission Decision 2001/844/EC, ECSC, Euratom<sup>1</sup>.

## **3. SELECTION CRITERIA**

The Panel Members should be selected according to the following criteria:

Individual criteria constituting a requirement:

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Decision 2001/844/EC, ECSC, Euratom of 29 November 2001 amending its internal Rules of Procedure (OJ L 317, 3.12.2001, p. 1).

- 1) The Member should have a cross-sectorial expertise enabling him/her to have a broad vision for the bioeconomy and represent stakeholder perspectives;
- 2) The Member should have experience in driving innovation;

Individual criteria constituting an asset:

- 3) The Member should be willing and committed to participate proactively in the Panel's activities and have enough time and resources to dedicate to the activities of the Panel;
- 4) The Member should have experience in representing his/her administration or his/her sector in other relevant bodies / initiatives at EU level or at national level. Alternatively, they should be able to liaise with these relevant bodies / initiatives and be able to represent a common interest shared by stakeholders

Global criteria constituting an asset for the Panel:

- 5) The Bioeconomy Panel should have a reasonable geographical and gender balance.
- 6) The Bioeconomy Panel should ensure an adequate representation of the main bioeconomy sectors and policies (e.g. agriculture and forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, environment, research and education, enterprises and industry, health and consumer affairs). The regional dimension should also be covered by some of the panel members.
- 7) The Bioeconomy Panel should be able to deliver added value to existing European Commission working and advisory groups and committees.

#### **4. SELECTION PROCEDURE**

The selection procedure shall consist of an assessment of the applications against the above mentioned criteria, followed by the establishment of a list of most suitable applicants.

Information on the results of the call for applications will be published on the Internet site of the register of the Commission expert groups<sup>2</sup>.

#### **5. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS**

Applications should be submitted by **05 February 2016** through the online application form at the following address:

**<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/BioeconomyPanel2016>**

Applications must be completed in one of the official languages of the European Union. However applications in English would facilitate the selection procedure.

The Commission reserves the right to ask for any supporting documents at a later stage, and to replace any member who has provided inaccurate or false declarations.

Personal data will be collected, processed and published in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=2510>

The list of members of the bioeconomy panel will be published in the register of the Commission expert groups<sup>4</sup>.

For any further information please send your query to: [RTD-BIOECONOMY-PANEL@ec.europa.eu](mailto:RTD-BIOECONOMY-PANEL@ec.europa.eu)

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<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8 of 12.1.2001, p. 1).

<sup>4</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=2510>