



## Press Release

### The Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU) now fully operational

26 October 2015, Brussels

#### **The BBI JU has become fully autonomous today, enabling it to manage its own budget and launch its own calls for proposals, grants and public procurement**

A €3.7 billion public-private partnership, the Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU) has remained under the European Commission's supervision since its formal launch in July 2014. As of today, 26 October 2015, the BBI JU will function as an independent body, with its own staff and offices and able to manage its own budget and launch its own open calls for proposals, grants and public procurement.

BBI JU's public partner, the European Commission, provides €975 million of the overall budget. Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, welcomed BBI JU's new status: "This is great news for the EU's efforts to develop a more sustainable economy. Once again, we are joining forces with industry and investing together in the huge potential of the bioeconomy. BBI will help expand our knowledge of how we can convert Europe's untapped renewable resources and waste into greener everyday products and biofuels".

The BBI JU's Executive Director, Philippe Mengal, said it was a proud moment for the Joint Undertaking. "It has only been a year since it was formally set up, but we have worked hard to launch calls for proposals and grants, identifying promising initiatives across Europe," he says.

Mr. Mengal took over as Executive Director on 1 October 2015, after 25 years as a CEO and manager in green technologies, engineering and food/life sciences industries. "We appreciate the recognition of our efforts, and we will continue to promote the bioeconomy in Europe in the years to come," adds Mengal.

BBI JU plays an important role in supporting business models that link economic actors all along the entire value chain. The BBI JU's second call for proposals, published on 25 August 2015, aims to improve cooperation between the different economic sectors: from the biomass supply (breeding and plant production, forestry, farming) to biorefineries and consumers of bio-based products.

Marcel Wubbolts, Chief Technology Officer at DSM, says: "This marks a vital step in the BBI JU's evolution: innovate in products from locally grown feedstocks, invest in regional value chains and inspire citizens in Europe that the bio-based economy creates jobs & growth and a sustainable future." Marcel Wubbolts is Chief Technology Officer at Royal DSM and chairman of BIC, the Bio-based Industries Consortium, the private partner in the public-private partnership BBI.

## **About the autonomy process**

Pursuant to Article 19 of Council Regulation (EC) 560/2014 of 6 May 2014 establishing the Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU), the European Commission shall be responsible for the establishment and initial operation of the BBI JU until it has the operational capacity to implement its own budget. In this regard, the Commission shall carry out all necessary actions, in accordance with Union law. The budget of the BBI JU shall be established and implemented in accordance with the principles of unity, budgetary accuracy, annuality, equilibrium, unit of account, universality, specification, sound financial management which requires effective and efficient internal control and transparency as set out in this Decision. For more than one year the EC has been managing the BBI JU budget, but from 26 October 2015 the BBI JU is able to manage it in an autonomous fashion.

## **About BBI JU**

The BBI JU is a public-private partnership (PPP), part of the EU's plan to move its economy to a post-petroleum era. It is expected to help make the EU's economy more resource-efficient and sustainable, while supporting growth and employment. The BBI is dedicated to realising the European bioeconomy potential and contributing to a sustainable circular economy, by turning biological residues and wastes (from agro-food, forestry and municipal) into greener everyday products, through innovative technologies and biorefineries, which are at the heart of the bioeconomy.

€3.7 billion will fund the BBI JU between 2014 and 2024, with €975 million coming from the European Commission and €2.7 billion from its private partner, the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC). For more information please visit: <http://www.bbi-europe.eu/>