Draft programme

Circular bioeconomy: the pathway towards a more innovative, resource efficient and competitive Europe

Monday 20 February 2023 09:30–16:00 (CET)
Digital meeting

Interparliamentary conference organised under the auspices of the Committee on Environment and Agriculture of the Swedish Riksdag

Version as of 16 December 2022

Welcome to

The Riksdag's interparliamentary conference on Circular bioeconomy – Monday 20 February 2023 – Digital meeting

The conference *Circular bioeconomy: the pathway towards a more innovative, resource efficient and competitive Europe* is organised under the auspices of the Committee on Environment and Agriculture of the Riksdag as part of the parliamentary dimension of the Swedish EU Presidency. The event is online and takes place on Monday 20 February 2023. By bringing together delegates from Europe's national chambers and parliaments, the European Parliament, researchers, national and international organisations, youth organisations and more, we seek to facilitate debate and an exchange of ideas on bioeconomy policy and the role it has to play in ensuring Europe's sustainable future. A live stream of the conference will be available on the Riksdag website to allow everyone to follow the debate.

The European Green Deal sets the EU's ambition to become climate neutral by 2050, and the bioeconomy plays a leading role in the Green Deal transition. The bioeconomy is already one of the Union's largest sectors as it encompasses all sectors and associated services that produce, use, process, distribute or consume biological resources. The EU Bioeconomy Strategy from 2018 complements sectoral policies and enables countries and regions to design transition pathways according to their specific challenges and opportunities. The objective of the conference is to examine the state of play of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy across sectors and different parts of Europe, bringing to light success stories and best practices, as well as facilitating opportunities for participants to discuss future challenges and opportunities.

Explore practical examples of the bioeconomy and join the discussion about the next steps at the regional, national and European level!

Conference agenda

The platform will be open for testing between 08:30 and 09:30 (CET) on the day of the conference, Monday 20 February 2023.

Session I: High-level opening – What is the role of the bioeconomy in delivering the Green Deal?

09:30–10:30 (CET)
Digital, plenary meeting

Speakers

Emma Nohrén (Green Party) and Kjell-Arne Ottosson (Christian Democrats)
Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee on Environment and Agriculture of the Riksdag

Name to be confirmed.
Member of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety of the European Parliament

Florika Fink-Hooijer
Director-General at the European Commission, DG Environment

Peter Kullgren
Minister for Rural Affairs, Swedish Ministry of Infrastructure

10:30–11:00 (CET)
Break

Session II: Bioeconomy policy innovations across sectors

11:00–12:00 (CET)
Digital, parallel panels

Parallel panel 1: Roles and possibilities of the forestry industry

Description

The forest-based sector is at the heart of a transition to a more innovative, resource efficient and competitive Europe by producing not just wood, but also bio-based chemicals, biocomposites, lignin, biofuels, and much more. While innovating and producing alternatives to fossil-based materials, the sector must also ramp up its environmental work, for instance by protecting and improving biodiversity. The legislative process ahead must therefore reconcile different societal needs: delivering on its environmental commitments while at the same time ensuring continued access to renewable, forest-based materials.

Speakers

Viveka Beckeman
CEO at the Swedish Forest Industries Federation

Katrin Jõgi
EU Bioeconomy Youth Ambassador and Sustainability Manager at Fibenol

Harald Mauser
Liaison Officer at the European Forest Institute

Moderator
Kjell-Arne Ottosson (Christian Democrats)
Deputy Chair of the Committee on Environment and Agriculture of the Riksdag

Parallel panel 2: National and regional bioeconomy strategies
Description
There is a need for policy coordination as the demands for biomass production increase. The EU Bioeconomy Strategy Action Plan from 2018 included specific actions to encourage the adoption of national and regional bioeconomy strategies tailored to their specific challenges and opportunities. Ten EU member states already have dedicated bioeconomy strategies, and an additional number of member states are currently preparing national policy frameworks on the bioeconomy.

Speakers
Órlaith Ní Choncubhair
Senior Research Officer in Teagasc, the Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority and member of The International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy

Lena Ek
Inquiry Chair for a Swedish bioeconomy strategy

Petri Peltonen
Under-Secretary of State at Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland

Moderator
Anna-Caren Sätherberg (Social Democratic Party)
Member of the Committee on Environment and Agriculture of the Riksdag

Parallel panel 3: The bioeconomy in the context of Europe's food security
Description
Europe's food security is once again at the top of the agenda. How we produce, supply and consume food in the EU is of key importance in the fight against climate change, as well as for achieving long-term independence. At the same time, the EU needs to produce more food for itself and the world. This calls for a dialogue around evidence-based solutions for sustainable, efficient and resilient food systems.

Speakers
Claes Johansson
Head of Sustainable Development at Lantmännen

Christina Nordin
Director-General of the Swedish Board of Agriculture

Pekka Pesonen
Secretary-General at Copa-Cogeca

Moderator
Staffan Eklöf (Sweden Democrats)
Member of the Committee on Environment and Agriculture of the Riksdag

Parallel panel 4: Blue bioeconomy
Description
Fisheries and aquaculture have long been important sources of food, but outside these sectors the use of renewable aquatic biological resources is still at a very early stage. By identifying new, and improving existing, ways of bringing blue bio-based products and services to the market, we can find new ways of creating value from the blue economy. The blue bioeconomy also offers considerable opportunities for European coastal communities, not least by providing new job opportunities.

Speakers
Fredrik Gröndahl
Director of the Kristineberg Centre for Marine Research and Innovation

Ingeborg Korme
Science-Policy Advisor at JPI Oceans and BlueBio Cofund

Gian Marco Luna
Director of the Institute for Marine Biological Resources and Biotechnology, Italian National Research Council

Moderator
Emma Nohrén (Green Party)
Chair of the Committee on Environment and Agriculture of the Riksdag

12:00–13:30 (CET)
Lunch break

Session III: Circular business models beyond pilot scale
13:30–14:30 (CET)
Digital, plenary session

Description
While policy and regulations set the targets and direction, businesses - large and small - have an opportunity to speed up the transition by conducting business in a responsible manner. Through cooperation with politicians and policymakers these actors have the potential to upscale circular business models in Europe and beyond. What is needed for circular business models to move beyond pilot scale?

Speakers
Annica Bresky
President and CEO at Stora Enso

Nina Ekelund
Executive Director of Hagainitiativet

Khaled Soufani
Director of the Circular Economy Centre at Judge Business School, University of Cambridge

Moderator
Ingrid Petersson
Inquiry Chair at the Swedish Government Offices

14:30–15:00 (CET)
Break

Session IV: Conference closing – What are the next steps for the circular bioeconomy in Europe?

15:00–16:00 (CET)
Digital, plenary session

Speakers
Joanna Drake
Deputy Director-General at the European Commission, DG Research and Innovation

Francis X. Johnson
Policy/Climate Cluster Lead and Senior Research Fellow at Stockholm Environment Institute

Ananya Manna
Investment Director, European Circular Bioeconomy Fund

Pieter Nachtergaele
EU Bioeconomy Youth Ambassador and Postdoctoral Researcher at Ghent University

Pekka Pesonen
Secretary-General at Copa-Cogeca

Virginijus Sinkevičius
Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

Moderator
Ingrid Petersson
Inquiry Chair at the Swedish Government Offices