

Call for Expressions of Interest 2021 for experts to be appointed as members of the Scientific Committee of the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

1. The Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

The Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU) is a public-private partnership between the European Union and the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC). The CBE JU was established by Council Regulation (EU) No 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe¹ (hereinafter "Single Basic Act")². It is a successor and replaces the Bio-based Industry Joint Undertaking (BBI JU) operating under the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme in the period 2014-2021.

The public founding partner, the European Union, is represented by the European Commission (EC). The private founding partner, BIC, is a non-profit organisation that represents the European bio-based industry and other R&I stakeholders. The aim of BIC is to ensure and promote the technological and economic development of the bio-based industries in Europe. The members of BIC cover the entire bio-based value chain and consist of large industries, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), regional clusters, European trade associations, and European Technology Platforms.

CBE JU is operating under Horizon Europe rules and its activities are driven by the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), which is co-developed by BIC and the European Commission and adopted by the Governing Board of the CBE JU. The SRIA describes the main technological and innovation challenges that need to be overcome in order to develop sustainable and competitive circular bio-based industries in Europe and identifies research, demonstration and deployment activities to be carried out by the CBE JU.

The mission of CBE JU is to implement the SRIA. This will be achieved mainly by funding research and innovation activities. To this end, the CBE JU will publish annual work programmes and launch calls for proposals for research, demonstration and deployment projects. It is foreseen that the CBE JU will provide funding at the level of 2 billion EUR in the period 2022-2027, out of which up to 1 billion EUR will come from the Horizon Europe programme.

In addition to the common objectives to be contributed to by all the Joint Undertakings established by the Single Basic Act and as referred to in Article 4 of that Regulation, CBE JU must also deliver on:

The general objectives of the CBE JU are:

- a) accelerate the innovation process and development of bio-based innovative solutions;
- b) accelerate market deployment of the existing mature and innovative bio-based solutions;
- c) ensure a high level of environmental performance of bio-based industrial systems.

The specific objectives of the CBE JU are:

- a) increase the intensity of cross-disciplinary research and innovation activities to reap the benefits of the advancement in life sciences and in other scientific disciplines for the development and demonstration of sustainable bio-based solutions;
- b) increase and integrate the research and innovation capacity of stakeholders across the Union to exploit the local bioeconomy potential; including in regions with underdeveloped capacity;
- c) increase the research and innovation capacity for addressing environmental challenges and development of more sustainable bio-based innovations by ensuring that sustainability issues and

¹ OJ L 427, 30.11.2021, p. 17.

² Council Regulation (EU) No 2021/2085

environmental performance are integrated throughout the whole innovation chain and in future innovative solutions;

- d) reinforce the integration of bio-based research and innovation in the Union bio-based industry and increase the involvement of R&I actors including feedstock providers in the bio-based value chains reduce the risk for research and innovation investment in bio-based companies and projects;
- e) ensure that circularity and environmental considerations, including contributions to climate neutrality and zero pollution objectives, are taken into account in the development and implementation of research and innovation bio-based projects and facilitate social acceptance.

The main decision-making body of the CBE JU is the Governing Board that also has the overall responsibility for its strategic orientations. The Governing Board is composed of 10 Board members representing equally the two CBE JU's founding members, the European Commission and the BIC.

The CBE JU is led by the Executive Director, who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the CBE JU and who is supported by the executive programme office. The CBE JU is assisted by advisory groups: The States Representatives Group, the Scientific Committee and the Deployment Groups.

More information on the CBE JU can be found on the CBE JU website www.bbi.ju/cbe.

2. The role of the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee is an advisory body of the CBE JU established in accordance with Single Basic Act. It assists the CBE JU in providing scientific advice on the areas of work undertaken by the CBE JU.

The Scientific Committee shall carry out the following tasks:

- (a) advise on the scientific priorities to be addressed in the work programmes including on scope of calls for proposals, in line with the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda and the Horizon Europe strategic planning;
- (b) advise on the scientific achievements to be described in the annual activity report;
- (c) suggest, in view of the progress of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda and individual actions, corrective measures or re-orientations to the governing board, where necessary;
- (d) provide independent advice and scientific analysis on specific issues as requested by the governing board, in particular as regards developments in adjacent sectors or to support the assessment of applications of potential associated members and contributing partners.

As established in Article 55 of the Single Basic Act, the Scientific Committee shall set up a task force composed of experts with the appropriate profiles to contribute to ensuring sufficient focus on all sustainability aspects of the work programme. Whenever possible, advice of the Scientific Committee on the work programme shall include aspects related to circularity, environmental sustainability, biodiversity preservation and enhancement, as well as broader aspects of sustainability of the bio-based systems and related value chains.

The Scientific Committee may, of its own initiative, also advise the governing board to consult it on specific points not covered by the tasks above.

3. Composition of the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee shall consist of no more than fifteen members. The Scientific Committee has a chairperson and one vice-chairperson who are elected from amongst its members.

The members should reflect a balanced representation of worldwide recognised scientific experts covering the relevant disciplines and perspectives related to the bio-based sector and its value chains, including with respect to gender and geographical balance. In this way collectively, the Scientific Committee members shall

have the necessary scientific competencies and expertise covering the technical domains needed to make science-based recommendations to the CBE JU. Each member serves in an independent scientific capacity and does not represent countries, employers nor similar interests.

4. Meetings and indemnities

The members of Scientific Committee are expected to meet twice per year. Meetings of the Scientific Committee may be in-person or virtual. In-person meetings will be held at the CBE JU offices in Brussels. The date of such meetings should, except in exceptional cases, be known at least twenty calendar days in advance.

Members of the Scientific Committee do not receive remuneration but are entitled to an indemnity for each in person meeting, i.e. reimbursement of travel expenses, a daily allowance and an accommodation allowance in accordance with the European Commission rules for reimbursement of expert's expenses.

5. Scope of the Call

The CBE JU is organising this call for expression of interest to draw up a shortlist of candidates for appointment as members of the Scientific Committee having expertise in one or more areas relevant to the work of the CBE JU.

CBE JU is looking for independent experts with an innovative vision and high level expertise. Collectively, the Scientific Committee members shall have the necessary expertise covering all of the competences and expertise mentioned below.

5.1 Specific criteria for selection

A candidate member of the Scientific Committee shall meet the following eligibility criteria:

- a) A university degree in a relevant scientific area³, preferably at post-graduate level;
- b) At least ten years of relevant professional experience in the relevant scientific area after having obtained the above mentioned degree;
- c) Very good command of written and spoken English⁴;
- d) Proven competence and expertise in some or all of the following areas of relevance to bio-based industries, at European and international level:
 - biomass feedstock supply (i.a. agricultural, forestry, aquatic, biowaste, etc...);
 - biomass feedstock pre-treatment, transformation/conversion and downstream processing into high-value bio-based chemicals and materials;
 - market uptake of bio-based products;
 - socio-economic sustainability of the bio-based systems and related value chains in regional, rural, coastal and urban settings;
 - sustainable management of natural resources including circularity, environmental sustainability, biodiversity preservation and enhancement, climate mitigation and adaptation, zero pollution, socio-economic sustainability of the bio-based systems and related value chains.

³including: Natural Sciences, Life Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities will be considered such as: Biotechnology, Chemistry, Materials Science, Environmental Science, Chemical Engineering, Synthetic Biology, Process Systems Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Agriculture and Forestry Sciences, Economics, Business, Finance, Education, Sociology, Psychology, Marketing, Communication etc.

⁴at least C1 according to the CEFR [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment \(CEFR\)](http://www.coe.int/lang-CEFR) (www.coe.int/lang-CEFR)

In addition, the following competences will be considered as an asset:

- Record of previous participation in other scientific and/or technological advisory bodies, demonstrating the ability to look for consensus and to provide synthetic, wide-spectrum analyses;
- Experience and knowledge about regulatory policies and standardization;
- Experience in activities of relevance to EU R&D Framework Programmes, including European partnerships (e.g. programming processes, evaluation and monitoring);
- Experience in participating and/or managing industrial⁵ and/or academic multidisciplinary research and innovation projects including EU or international early-stage research, demonstration & deployment projects;
- Experience in assessing and peer-reviewing scientific work (in an academic or industrial research context).

European Commission staff, including external staff working for the Commission, staff of the Joint Research Centre, officials of Member States, and of national, regional or local authorities are not eligible candidates.

Persons who are employed by BIC, by an organisation that is a full⁶ member of BIC, or who are employed directly by the joint undertaking are not eligible candidates.

A short-listed candidate shall not be appointed as a member of the Scientific Committee if this person already serves as a member of another body of the CBE JU.

5.2 Application procedure

Members of the Scientific Committee will be selected from applicants who express their interest following an open call published in the Official Journal. Members of the Scientific Committee can also be selected from among candidates proposed by the States Representative Group (a separate advisory body of the CBE, representing EU Member States).

Interested candidates are requested to submit their expression of interest by filling in a structured application form here: <https://www.bbi.europa.eu/about/cbe-ju-scientific-committee> and providing the following documents:

- 1) A curriculum vitae. The CV should describe applicant's professional and academic experience. It should also contain a list of the applicant's scientific publications and patents, preferably in English
- 2) Completed application form

Candidates are requested to send their expression of interest with the enclosed supporting documents to SC.candidates@cbe.europa.eu by 23 January 2022 at 12.00 (noon) Central European Time.

Additional supporting documents may be requested at a later stage. All expressions of interest will be treated as confidential.

6. Selection process

The CBE JU Executive Director will prepare the list of all candidates eligible, with the support of independent experts, in accordance with the talent screener and the requirements set out in this call. A candidate who does not meet all the eligibility criteria will be excluded from the next steps of the selection process.

⁵ Including large industry, or SMEs, or startups

⁶ As described in the [BIC statutes](#).

An evaluation panel composed by representatives of the EC and of BIC will be established to assess the eligible candidates on the basis of the specific criteria for selection mentioned under point 5.1 of this call and based on the achieved qualifications such as:

- Academic education (Master degree, PhD, ...);
- Relevant professional academic and/or research experience. This includes aspects such as: research grants obtained, number of projects managed or participated, and reference to the major research projects the candidate has been involved in;
- Major publications and other significant works and prizes (e.g. publications index; fellowships; patents; editorial boards participation etc).

The final selection will be done by the CBE JU Governing Board, as the body competent to appoint the members of the Scientific Committee, taking into account the results of the work of the evaluation panel. In this assessment the Governing Board will take into account:

- a) The need to have the necessary scientific competencies and expertise covering the technical domain needed to make science-based recommendations to the CBE Joint Undertaking;
- b) The need to reflect a balanced representation relevant disciplines related to the bio-based sector and its value chains;
- c) The need to ensure geographical and gender balance.

The Governing Board shall establish a shortlist of fifteen candidates who are considered best suited for appointment, as well as a reserve list of a maximum of 30 members.

The CBE JU Programme Office shall ensure the secretariat that receives, registers and files all applications, and will inform the applicants of the outcome of the process.

7. Appointment and term

The experts who best meet the selection criteria will be appointed for a term of three years which term may be renewed once for a maximum of another three-year period.

8. Confidentiality

For each task they perform, the selected Members of the Scientific Committee shall demonstrate appropriate ethical conduct and must respect the confidentiality of the information and documents to which they will have access. They will be required to sign a declaration attesting to their commitment.

9. Independence and absence of conflict of interest

Selected members of the Scientific Committee will be appointed on a personal basis. They are required to sign declaration of absence of conflict of interest as required under the Single Basic Act. Applicants are invited to indicate already at application stage in the motivation letter their direct or indirect involvement (if any) in the activities which may be deemed prejudicial to their independence. They will be required to sign a declaration attesting to their commitment.

10. Equal opportunity

The CBE JU applies the EU policy of equal opportunities and accepts applications without distinction on the grounds of age, race, political, philosophical or religious conviction, gender or sexual orientation and regardless of disabilities, material status or family situation.



11. Protection of personal data

The CBE JU will ensure that candidates' personal data are processed as required by Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC. You can find more information on who we treat your personal data in the specific privacy policy.