

Press release

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Necessary measures to achieve a level-playing field for bio-based products

Over the last three years the STAR4BBI project has studied policy and standardisation hurdles that bio-based industries face. During the recent stakeholders' workshop in Cologne, a set of seven measures to achieve better policies and standards for bio-based industries had been concluded. These will be shared with the EC and industry associations via a soon to be produced report.

The EU funded STAR4BBI project has analysed the policies and standardisation hurdles by collecting information from literature and several full product value chains. The partners have developed a set of proposals to legislators and industry to tackle these issues. At the concluding workshop, insights and feedback was provided by industry representatives, standards' experts and policy makers via interactive table discussions. These helped to confirm and refine the following seven proposals:

1. Develop an EU Renewable Materials Directive similar to the one existing for biofuels and bioenergy
2. Develop sustainability certification of all products under the EU Ecolabel and the CEN standard EN 16751
3. Implement a carbon tax at EU level
4. Regulate at EU level the design of products and at EU and municipal level their preferred end-of-life routes
5. Update the EU Waste Framework Directive and align it with the Circular Economy Package
6. Make the use of compostable plastic mandatory for certain products in order to assist consumers
7. Update the term Genetically Modified Organisms in Directive 2001/18/EC in order to exclude new breeding techniques, currently ruled under this Directive

All these proposals will be presented to the EU policy makers as final results of STAR4BBI. For the public, these results will be available from September 2019, on the project website at the following address: www.biobasedeconomy.eu/projects/star4bbi/

STAR4BBI is an EU funded project focusing on Standards and Regulations for the Bio-based Industry. The project has started on September 2016 with the duration of 36 months. It is led by the Netherlands Standardisation Institute NEN and comprises the consortium members nova-Institute, TU Berlin and Wageningen University.

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