The Future Bioeconomy

Delivering climate sensitive and sustainable alternatives to meet the needs of society

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Given the historic and ongoing use of biomass in the economy the question is - Why the emphasis now on creating or transitioning to a bioeconomy?

- **Innovation** - promote and respond to advances in scientific knowledge
- **Added value** - alternative opportunities for creating value from biomass
- **Environment and social justice** - opportunity for the bioeconomy to drive sustainable development
A Circular, Bioeconomy – Delivering Multiple Goals
Global Interest in the Bioeconomy
Integrated Goals for Sustainable Development and Climate Action

1. Ensuring food security;
2. Managing natural resources sustainably;
3. Reducing dependence on non-renewable sources;
4. Mitigating and adapting to climate change;
5. Creating jobs and maintaining competitiveness.

- The production of renewable (sustainable), biological products and resources – **scale is important**
- Primary production **relies on inputs** – can be both linear and circular
- Relies on a **common resource streams**
- Can deliver efficiency but **needs to be considered collectively** - best and most efficient use of resource
A Question of Scale

- Biomass produced = 1,466 MT / year
  - 956 MT / year agriculture
  - 510 MT / year forestry
  - (avg figures)

- Harvested and used = 805 MT/year
  - 578 MT / year agriculture
  - 227 MT / year Forestry
  - (2013 figures)

Sources:
- Eurostat (env_ac_mfa) and (demo_gind);
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Driving a circular, resource efficient economy

100 %

Material consumption - 6,666 MT/yr

22%

Total produced 1,466 MT/yr

12%

Harvested and used = 805 MT/yr
Bioeconomy has a role in a resource efficient, economy that delivers on climate action. Bioeconomy is only part of the change needed, it has to be accompanied by wider societal change.
Limits of a Circular Economy

• Respect established environmental limits and thresholds
• Real resource savings must be measured as absolute, rather than just relative
• Europe is a leader for environmental policy but per capita consumption and waste production remains very high
• Does not automatically integrate concepts of social and environmental justice - future development models

A Sustainable Circular Bioeconomy – that delivers Climate Action

• Policy coherence - sustainable trajectory for the circular bio-economy
• Policy interventions to deliver reduction of environmental pressures along the entire value chain
• Necessity socio-economic and institutional innovations - reconceptualising what value means in the bio-economy, not just production
• Changes in consumption and behaviour
• Sustainability criteria - to ensure the bio-economy stays within natural limits and to promote circularity
• A new way of considering bio-resources and their role in society