



EUROPEAN BIOECONOMY CLUSTERS' ALLIANCE STATUTE

1. FOUNDING MEMBERS

The European Bioeconomy Clusters' Alliance (EBCA), hereafter also referred to as Alliance, has been established in Brussels on February 10, 2025 by the following 14 clusters, which are the Founding members

- Bioeconomy Cluster, Slovakia
- Bioeconomy for Change, France
- Cluster Industrial Biotechnology - CLIB, Germany
- CTA, Spain
- Flanders' FOOD, Belgium
- Food & Bio Cluster, Denmark
- Food+I, Spain
- Greek Bioeconomy Council, Greece
- Irish Bioeconomy Foundation, Ireland
- Italian Circular Bioeconomy Cluster SPRING, Italy
- P-Bio, Portugal
- Wagralim, the agri-food innovation cluster of Wallonia, Belgium
- Cluster of Bioeconomy and Environment Western Macedonia, Greece
- World Bioeconomy Association, Finland

2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The EBCA is free, non-partisan, non-political and non-profit. The purpose is to pursue the following objectives:

- Create a level playing field with linear, fossil-based economy.

- Support investment in research, development and innovation in bioeconomy in general, specifically focusing on the development of biorefineries.
- Improve incentives to invest in scaling and infrastructure capacity.
- Develop a European model of market access for bioproducts.
- Develop a framework for the fast approval of sustainable bioproducts.
- Establish channels of communication, exchange, collaboration and mutual learning with third countries outside the EU, contributing to the international R&D&I networks, as well as markets, opportunities for growth and homogenization of standards and policies in bioeconomy.
- Provide consultation and guidance in order to advocate for bioeconomy.

3. ACTIVITIES

The EBCA shall pursue these objectives mainly through the following activities

- Common position papers
- Organisation of common events or common participation in relevant events at EU and/or national level
- Coordination with regard to EU consultations about topics related to the circular bioeconomy
- Information exchange between members of the Alliance and networking their respective members especially with regard to initiating and supporting R&D&I projects

The Alliance may not carry out activities other than those listed above, with the exception of those which are directly connected or by nature are inherent to those of the statute, being supplementary to them.

4. APPLICATION AND ADMISSION PROCESS

The Alliance refrains from any form of discrimination (such as, for example, discrimination based on race, religion, nationality).

Clusters interested in participating in the Alliance must submit a specific application declaring they share the objectives and aims that the EBCA pursues and accept this Statute without reservation.

The Assembly (or Board, if applicable) shall decide on the admission of members by a simple majority. However, the EBCA is free to decline an application following a legitimate explanation. If another EBCA member already exist from the same country, the application shall be subject to VETO from such member that shares potential geographical/thematic overlaps, as diplomatic but also quality control measure.

5. MEMBERS

"Members" of the EBCA are defined as a cluster¹ who shares the purpose and ideals of the Alliance and actively participates in the Alliance during its existence, according to what is set out in article 2, and meets the following requirements:

- be a legal entity
- be a member-based cluster
- operate within bioeconomy as it is defined by EU
- be registered on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform²

This last requirement is not needed for Associations that are invited to join the Alliance.

6. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Membership in the Alliance entails the right to vote in the Assembly.

Members have the right to hold positions within the Alliance and the right to participate in the life of the Alliance and the activities promoted by the Alliance.

All members have the duty of complying with the statute regulations.

They have the right to be informed on the Alliances' activities.

7. LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP STATUS

The status of member can be lost due to:

- No longer meeting the requirements described in article 5
- Withdrawal: all members can communicate their desire to withdraw from the Alliance at any time; withdrawal shall take effect at the time the Assembly has been notified.
- Disqualification due to serious reasons and decided by the Assembly.

8. BODIES OF THE ALLIANCE AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

The Alliance is made up of the following bodies:

- a) Assembly
- b) Board (optional)
- c) Spokesperson (to be voted by the Assembly and in office for one year)

9. ASSEMBLY

The Assembly is composed of one full representative and one substitute representative of each member of the Alliance. All members have an equal right to vote, and each member has one vote in the Assembly. The Assembly is the most important event, aimed at ensuring the Alliance is managed correctly and democratically.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/651/oj/eng>

² <https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/>

The Assembly shall be convened by the Spokesperson ordinarily at least once per year and extraordinarily any time required or requested by the Board (if applicable) or by at least 1/4 of the members.

The Assembly must be convened through written communication or public notice at least 45 days before the date of the Assembly. Assembly proceedings shall go into effect with a vote in favour from a simple majority of those attending.

The Assembly has the following tasks:

- Elect the Spokesperson of the Alliance and the Alliance Board (if applicable)
- Approve internal regulations (if applicable)
- Decide on any other issue under discussion

10. SPOKESPERSON

The Spokesperson shall be elected by the Assembly with a term of 1 year (the same term as the Board, should a Board be elected). The Spokesperson acts as the representative of the Alliance for all intents and purposes.

The Spokesperson shall:

- Convene, draft an agenda, and chair the Assembly (and the Board, if applicable)
- ensure that the Assembly functions correctly, provide minutes and proceedings of Assembly meetings to all members
- perform representative duties pertinent to their functions
- check that decisions made by the Assembly are correctly applied

11. MEMBERSHIP FEES

No fee is needed to be a member of the Alliance. The parties will be responsible for their own costs for establishing and conducting the cooperation, including their own expenses for visits, business trips, participation in meetings, events, etc.

12. FINAL PROVISIONS

In pursuing its goals and activities, the Alliance pledges to not adopt potentially humiliating conduct (hazing) towards members or other persons. The Alliance further commits to avoiding any conduct that could damage their respective members. This statute is strictly connected with the MoU signed on 10 February 2015 in Brussels by the 14 Founding members. The Alliance has not a distinct legal personality as a registered entity. And it is not liable for the actions of individual members.

In the event of any dispute arising between members or between a member and the EBCA concerning the interpretation or application of this Statute, the parties shall first seek to resolve the matter amicably through negotiation.