



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Directorate F – Bioeconomy
F.2 – Bio-based Products and Processing

Brussels, 21 November 2016

NOTE TO THE ATTENTION OF [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] BBI JU

Subject: Current status of the proposal for amending the BBI JU Regulation in relation to the in cash contribution

First in cash task force meeting - objectives and conclusions

On 9 March 2016 the BBI JU Governing Board has established a task force group with the mandate to explore and find solutions to issues related to the in-cash contribution. The group composed of BIC, BBI JU and EC representatives had its first meeting on 26 May 2016. The objective of this first meeting was to communicate to the different parties next steps to be followed by the EC in the amendment (decision making) process as well as to jointly identify potential implementing solutions for the case in which the outcome of the amendment process will be successful.

The meeting was concluded with a set of concrete actions assigned to each of the actors involved:

- BIC committed to undertake an internal thorough analysis with regards to potential topics that could generate in cash contributions and to present the outcomes of this analysis on the GB meeting of 13 September 2016.
- The EC took up the task of finalising and internally agreeing on the draft proposal for amendment and that of launching the Interservice Consultation (ISC) process that would allow the College to adopt the proposal and initiate the inter-institutional legislative process.
- BBI JU assumed the task of identifying necessary operational implementing measures to be put in place following the possible adoption of the amendment. The outcome of this process would be summarised in an Implementing Note by the BBI JU.

Follow up actions taken up by the EC

Following up the task force meeting, F2 produced a first draft proposal for amendment. On 24 June 2016, with the assistance of Unit A2, F2 introduced the draft proposal into the Agenda Planning of the College of Commissioners, in view of obtaining the political validation necessary for its adoption. In parallel (independent from the process of political validation), F2 consulted Units R4 and J1 on the draft proposal for amendment and reached an internal consensus within DG RTD on 16 September 2016. The legislative proposal received the necessary political validation on 26 October 2016 which allowed F2 to start the circulation for the hierarchy of the ISC file, on 27 October 2016.

In addition to the work directly related to the draft amendment proposal, F2 has actively supported the BBI JU in the process of discussing the necessary operational implementing measures with other Commission services (particularly with J1) and of drafting the Implementing Note of the BBI JU.

Current status and next steps of the amendment proposal

Currently, the validation by the Cabinet of the RTD Commissioner is the last step needed before launching the ISC. With an ISC period of 20 working days, translations, further validation by the office of the Commissioner before launching the written procedure to obtain approval by the College of Commissioners, we expect the Commission adoption of the proposal in February 2017.

Once adopted, the proposal will be brought to the Council, becoming an item on the agenda of a meeting of the Working Party on Research. It is of a particular importance that, by the date of that meeting, the Implementing Note is finalised and signed off of the BBI JU and that BIC has produced a clear plan on the topics expected to attract in cash contributions. F2 will keep the BBI JU and BIC informed about the indicative and the exact dates of the meeting of the Working Party on Research as soon as possible. The Commission will be expected to give a presentation (at minimum Head of Unit level) and support the proposal for amendment at this Research Working Party meeting.

Finally, the proposal for amendment would be adopted by the Council via a special legislative procedure following the consultation of the European Parliament.

At this stage, any timeline projections as to the final adoption by the Council are speculative, since this is out of the Commission's competences. Nevertheless, Unit F2 has communicated, insisted and will reiterate to A2 the need to introduce the proposal on the agenda of the Working Party on Research as early as possible. Ideally, the proposal would be adopted by mid-2017.