



Ministry of Agriculture
and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic

Gabriela Matečná
Minister

Bratislava 5 April 2016

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Dear Commissioner,

The Slovak Republic will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the second half of the year 2016. Allow me to take this opportunity and invite you as a guest of honour to a scientific conference that will be held on October 16-17, 2016 in Bratislava under the aegis of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic.

The aim of the conference is to discuss with national and regional stakeholders the new bioeconomy context for the agriculture, forestry and fisheries and also to identify the barriers in the region in adapting the bioeconomy strategy. The title of the conference is "The Role of Regions in Research and Innovation in the European Bioeconomy". Owing to its outstanding speakers, it is one of the most prestigious conferences of its kind in Central and Eastern Europe. Your remarkable professional background and wealth of career experience is highly appreciated world-wide. Therefore, I would be very delighted and honoured to welcome you to the conference.

I hope that your busy schedule will allow you to join us and speak up at the conference. Your voice is essential to help us to enhance the visibility of the relevant issues in the field of science and innovation support of sustainable agricultural production in Europe and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Phil Hogan
Member of the European Commission
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

