

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

The Director-General

Brussels, the 20th of July 2012
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NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF MR. JOHN BELL
HEAD OF CABINET OF COMMISSIONER GEOGHEGAN-QUINN

Subject: New Joint Technology Initiative in the field of bio-based industries

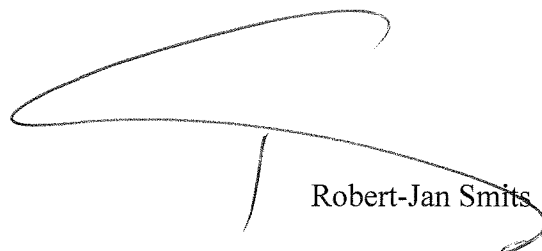
The purpose of this note is to request your endorsement and approval for the further planning of a possible Article 187 initiative in the field of bio-based industries.

A possible public-private partnership in the field of bio-based industries has been proposed in the European bio-economy strategy communication and in the specific Horizon 2020 proposal. In response to this, the bio-based industries have come together and created a Vision document entitled "Bio-based for Growth" (Annex 1). This Vision document represents the current views of the industry which has shown broad and ambitious support for the program and for the JTI approach. Moreover, the overall financial commitment to date of the 30 founding members of the industry group seems to be in the order of € 2.8 billion, which could possibly be matched by provisional public funding under Horizon 2020. The industry group is now fully immersed in the preparation of the strategic research and innovation agenda.

Based on the Vision document and the commitment that the bio-based industry has shown through regular interactions with my services, we now propose to move ahead with the next steps in preparation of a possible Commission proposal for a Council Regulation on establishing a Joint Technology Initiative in the field of bio-based industries. For this reason, we seek your approval for the launch of a public consultation in September 2012 to explore the ground for this potential public-private partnership. This may then be used for the preparation of the impact assessment. Please see the objectives and the next steps of the preparation in the attached draft roadmap (Annex 2) which will serve as a basis for inclusion in the Commission 2013 work programme.

I propose that this new Joint Technology Initiative will be developed separately from the 3 existing FP7 JTIs (IMI, CleanSky, FCH) for which the renewal under Horizon 2020 is under preparation. We would aim for the Commission proposal for the bio-based industries JTI Council regulation to be adopted in June 2013, i.e. still under the Irish presidency (timeline for preparations in Annex 3).

I would appreciate if this issue could be addressed during our forthcoming meeting on Wednesday July 25.



Robert-Jan Smits

Cc.: R. Strohmeier, W. Kütt, P. Reilly, K. Sequeira, M. Rute

Encl.:

Annex 1: Vision document entitled "Bio-based for Growth"

Annex 2: Draft Roadmap of Joint Technology Initiative in the field of Bio-based industries

Annex 3: Timeline of preparations