



## Workshop

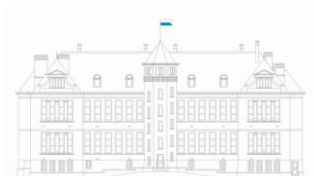
*“Cross-sectorial and cross-border cooperation of clusters in support of green chemicals industries”*

27 February 2014, 9:00-16:30.

Kindly hosted by  
the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union

Rue Wiertz 77, 1000 Brussels

**Co-organised by the European Commission (Directorate General Enterprise and Industry) and the European Chemicals Regions Network**



Registration: The event is free, but advance registration is required. Register by filling in the registration form provided with the programme and send it to [ecrn@ecrn.net](mailto:ecrn@ecrn.net) by 21 February 2014.

The **objective of the workshop** is to present good examples of cross sectorial cluster cooperation and industrial partnerships in support of “green chemicals” and to identify future challenges to be addressed by chemical clusters. This workshop will provide a discussion forum for regions that wish to further develop the bio-based economy in their regions, by capitalizing on clusters as a driving force for facilitating structural change and promoting new forms of industrial cooperation across different sectors. Representatives from the European Commission will inform about relevant European initiatives that may help in this respect.

**Clusters play a key role for the chemicals industry**, by improving the competitiveness and innovativeness of chemical companies in Europe and making them more resilient. The majority of the 300 European chemical production sites are located in 30 clusters. Clusters benefit from shared use of infrastructure and services, access to major transport modes and proximity to suppliers, markets and customers. Companies profit from an optimised cost structure and access to resources. Centralised production of power and steam usually generate a lower carbon footprint. Clusters also attract new talent and knowledge which, in turn, stimulates innovation. However, the ultimate challenge for clusters is to facilitate structural change and to ensure the future of the industry in a changing world. In this respect, the transition towards a low-carbon economy is not only a challenge for chemicals industries, but offers also new business opportunities, in particular in the field of green chemicals.

This workshop will contribute to the further **implementation of the recommendations of the High Level Group/HLG on the competitiveness of the chemicals industry**. Industry and public authorities at all levels should strengthen clusters (and open innovation processes), notably with the view to facilitate cooperation across sectors and across borders and the aim of further stimulating, accelerating and facilitating crosscutting innovation throughout the value chains. In this workshop, specific emphasis will be put on the challenge to facilitate the structural change of the chemical industry towards “green chemicals”, by making better use of alternative feedstock for chemical production and thus stimulating the bio-economy in Europe. This calls for new forms of cluster cooperation, both upstream and downstream, to have better access to bio-mass and to create new value chains with other industries to further promote bio-based chemicals.

The **Commission (DG ENTR)** seeks to develop policy approaches to foster the emergence of the bio-economy in Europe. This calls for greater cross-fertilisation between sectors and the development of new value chains. Building upon “first generation” bio-refineries new products and business models need to be developed also by the chemicals industry that make wider use of renewable resource and thus contribute to the further development of the circular economy in Europe. The bio-economy has the potential to shape new industries through cross-sectorial cooperation that help re-industrialising Europe. Smart specialisation strategies, as encouraged by the Structural Funds, may help to unlock this potential and to develop new “chemical regions” in Europe based on renewable resources.

From the **ECRN perspective**, this workshop is a good opportunity to showcase the achievements and outcomes of different regional clusters in the field of the bio-economy and draw attention to the diversity of local and regional initiatives. A presentation and peer-review of different types of initiatives from ECRN member regions and other European regions can yield a fruitful exchange of best practices and experiences, but also helps to understand the different regional realities in which clusters operate and how this diversity can be leveraged to deliver true European added value.

#### **The Workshop will:**

- Discuss the role of clusters to unlock the full potential of the bio-economy;
- Elaborate the scope for better cross-sectorial cooperation between clusters;
- Draw policy conclusion on how to best support “green chemicals” through clusters in Europe.

## Programme

Moderator: Simone van Trier

- 8.30-9.00 **Registration and coffee**
- 9.00-9.30 **Opening**
- Michael Hinterdobler, Director of the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union
- Reinhard Büscher, Head of Unit "Chemicals Industry", DG Enterprise and Industry
- Francesco Baroni, European Chemical Region Network Vice President
- 9.30-10.00 **Setting the scene**
- Gerd Meier zu Köcker, VDI, VDE (Institute for Innovation and Technology)
- Timoteo de la Fuente, DG Enterprise and Industry
- 10.00-12.00 **The green chemicals cluster hotspots in Europe**
- Daniel A. Gottschald (Chemie Cluster Bayern)/ Patrick Vuillermoz (Polymer Innovation Cluster, Plastipolis)
- Christophe Luguel (Industry and Agro Resource Cluster)/ Ger Spork (Bio based Delta Cluster)
- Frank Schaap (Chemelot)/ Horst Mosler (BioEconomy Cluster e.V.)
- Sebastian Hummel (Ministry of Economics, Transport, Urban and Regional Development, State of Hessen)/ Daniele Colombo (Camera di Commercio di Milano, Lombardy Region)
- 12.00-13.00 **Open debate**
- 13.00-13.45 **Lunch break**
- 13.45-14.45 **Community initiatives in support of clusters in the field of the bio economy**
- Thomas Dodd (t.b.c.), DG Research and Innovation
- Representative of DG Regional and Urban Policy (t.b.c.)
- Christophe Guichard (t.b.c.), DG Enterprise and Industry
- Dirk Carrez (t.b.c.), Executive Director of the Biobased Industries Consortium
- 14.45-15.45 **Open debate**
- 15.45-16.30 **Conclusions**
- Gernot Klotz, Executive Director for Research and Innovation, CEFIC
- Gwen Cozigou, Director Resources Based, Manufacturing and Consumer Good Industries, DG Enterprise and Industry