



Ministry of Agriculture
Republic of Latvia



EUSBSR
EU STRATEGY
FOR THE BALTIC
SEA REGION
Latvian Presidency
2023-2024

1st PA Bioeconomy Steering group meeting under Latvian presidency

02.11.2023. MS Teams

Attendees:

Elīna Lāce (LV)
Kristīna Sirmā (LV)
Kristian Poulsen (NMRS)
Dalia Miniataitė (LT)
Vitalija Fokienė (LT)
Lars Andersson (SE)
Anna Tofftén (SE)
Janika Salev (EE)
Iris Huhi (EE)
Leena Anttila (FI)
Tilman Schachtsiek (DE)

As observers:

Viktoriiia Hladii (BSP)
Torfi Jóhannesson

Minutes from the meeting

	Agenda points	Decisions
1.	Welcome and approval of agenda. <i>Kristīne Sirmā, Ministry of Agriculture Republic of Latvia</i>	KS informed that agenda point nr. 4 would have to be postponed to next meeting, due to cancellation from Olga Trofimtseva. KS also noted that DK was still not represented in the SG; that LT and FI were represented by the respective PAC-members on this meeting, and that the members from PL could not attend due to a national holiday. The revised agenda for the meeting was approved.

2.	Approval of the revised working plan for PA-Bioeconomy <i>Nordic Council of Ministers</i>	KP introduced the revised working plan for 2023/2024. The working plan was approved.
3.	Approval of the proposal to invite Norway to participate as observers in the SG. <i>Elīna Lāce, Ministry of Agriculture Republic of Latvia</i>	EL presented the proposal from the chairmanship to open for an invitation to Norway, to participate as an observer in the SG. The proposal received positive reactions from the SG members. SE suggested that it would be important to get a clear description of what the observer status included, and what would be the role of Norway before an invitation was delivered. The proposal was approved.
4.	EUSBSR to help rebuild Ukraine. <i>Dr. Olga Trofimtseva</i>	This point was cancelled, however, EL introduced the point to highlight that the topic was started in the EUSBSR Annual Forum in 2023 in Riga and it would be a topic the SG could work on in order to prepare for the Annual Forum in 2024 in Sweden, which was supported by Anna Toftén who is also one of the organizers.
5.	Tour de table <i>Elīna Lāce, Ministry of Agriculture Republic of Latvia</i>	The SG members reported about on-going national policy work and interesting developments. Several countries are working on their bioeconomy strategies, and it was suggested that the Policy Area could be a platform for cooperation on the on-going initiatives and even work towards a common (Circular) Bioeconomy Strategy.
6.	Any other business <i>Elīna Lāce, Ministry of Agriculture Republic</i>	EL announced that the chairmanship is planning next meetings in February 2024 and May 2024. It is also possible the SG will be invited to a short introduction about the EUSBSR before the next meeting and that there could be a representative from EC joining to give an overview of the bioeconomy initiatives planned in the EC work plan.
7.	Closing of the meeting <i>Nordic Council of Ministers Ministry of Agriculture</i>	KP thanked the chairmanship and the members for a good meeting. KS closed the meeting.

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