

October 2018

DECLARATION ON BIOECONOMY BETWEEN FINLAND, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN

We recognize that social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of our planet's natural resources, as stated in the UN 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. We understand that the global challenges like climate change and growing population seeks for new ways of producing and consuming in order to respect the sustainable boundaries of our planet. The precondition for successful bioeconomy lies in the sustainable use of ecosystem services. It calls for systemic changes as stated in the European bioeconomy strategy. We see that bioeconomy is a powerful policy instrument, which paves the way for achieving climate and energy targets for 2020 and for 2030 and beyond, towards a carbon neutral society. We see that intensifying the collaboration in bioeconomy between the Northern and Southern parts of Europe is crucial in order to unlock the full potential of the European bioeconomy, creating jobs and promoting competitiveness.

Finland, Portugal and Spain wish to enhance their collaboration and complementarity especially in the fields of Blue Bioeconomy, circular bioeconomy, ecosystem services, and R&D activities.

Blue bioeconomy

The EU Blue Bioeconomy Roadmap will identify the sector's future regulatory, research, financial assistance and product needs. It will identify critical enablers and the blockages that need to be removed to ensure further development in the market. We recognize the growing importance of aquatic-based services and products and their potential for developing business based on the sustainable and smart use of renewable aquatic natural resources.

We have recognized the common action areas in blue bioeconomy as follows:

- Water technology and know-how, including recycling and the re-use of water in industrial processes and communities.
- Offshore farming of marine and freshwater resources.
- Aquaculture production on land, including technology for closing the loops.
- Offshore energy production (wind and wave energy) and related industrial symbiosis.
- Value creation from marine biomass and freshwater biomasses

Circular bioeconomy

Circular economy is an equal important and growing policy area. The European Commission has adopted an ambitious Circular Economy Package to help European businesses and consumers to make the transition to a stronger and more circular economy where resources are used in a more sustainable way.

In line with the European Commission's "Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy", bioeconomy can also provide a decisive contribution to the various dimensions of the Energy Union providing energy security, while ensuring biomass sustainability and minimising the carbon footprint.

The proposed actions will contribute to "closing the loop" of product lifecycles through greater recycling and re-use, secure and clean energy, bringing benefits for both the environment and the economy. The bioeconomy may contribute in many ways to achieving the goals of the Circular Economy.

We have recognized the urgent need to take common action in:

- The substitution of non-degradable plastic materials made from non-renewable sources, taking into account the EU Strategy for Plastics in the Circular Economy
- The development of different biomass processing technologies, taking into account the waste hierarchy principles
- The promotion of industrial symbiosis to enhance nutrient recycling ensuring health and environmental protection
- The use of raw materials and recycling secondary raw materials and waste with the aim of increasing efficiency in material use and energy together with reducing emissions
- The use of sustainably produced bioenergy and renewables to replace fossil resources and reduce the overall carbon footprint of the energy sector, and
- The efficient use of natural resources in particular by promoting water and nutrient reuse.

Ecosystem services

Securing the ecosystem services is a precondition for a sustainable bioeconomy. There are also new business opportunities based on ecosystem services for housing, distributed energy production and water and landscape management as well as for nature tourism. We wish to unlock the potential of ecosystem services for nature protection and sustainable business.

Research and innovation

Sound policy making on bioeconomy calls for evidence-based knowledge. We have recognized the following areas of enhanced research and innovation collaboration: food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and fresh water research, industrial biotechnology, advanced biorefineries development, sustainable fisheries, conservation and sustainable use of marine resources and secure, clean and efficient energy.