


Procedure file

Basic information			
NLE - Non-legislative enactments	2013/0241(NLE)	Procedure completed	
Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking			
Subject			
3.50.01.05 Research specific areas			
3.50.08 New technologies; biotechnology			
3.50.20 Scientific and technological cooperation and agreements			
3.60.05 Alternative and renewable energies			
8.40.08 Agencies and bodies of the EU			
Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy		10/10/2013
		PPE VAN NISTELROOIJ Lambert	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		S&D ANDRÉS BAREA Josefa	
		ALDE JOHANSSON Kent	
		ECR CHICHESTER Giles	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
REGI Regional Development		24/09/2013	
	PPE ŁUKACIJEWSKA Elżbieta Katarzyna		
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
JURI Legal Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	General Affairs	3306	18/03/2014
	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	3276	03/12/2013
	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	3258	26/09/2013
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Research and Innovation	GEOGHEGAN-QUINN Máire	

Key events			
10/07/2013	Legislative proposal published	COM(2013)0496	Summary
10/09/2013	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/09/2013	Debate in Council	3258	
23/01/2014	Vote in committee		
05/02/2014	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A7-0092/2014	Summary
15/04/2014	Results of vote in Parliament		
15/04/2014	Decision by Parliament	T7-0371/2014	Summary
06/05/2014	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
06/05/2014	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/06/2014	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2013/0241(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consultation of Parliament
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 187; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 188 -a1
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/7/13375

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(2013)0496	10/07/2013	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		SWD(2013)0247	10/07/2013	EC	
Document attached to the procedure		SWD(2013)0248	10/07/2013	EC	
Committee draft report		PE522.975	11/11/2013	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE522.976	05/12/2013	EP	
Committee opinion	REGI	PE522.783	18/12/2013	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0092/2014	05/02/2014	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0371/2014	15/04/2014	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2014)471	09/07/2014	EC	
For information		SWD(2017)0338	06/10/2017	EC	
For information		SWD(2017)0339	06/10/2017	EC	

Additional information	
National parliaments	IPEX
European Commission	EUR-Lex
Final act	
Regulation 2014/560 OJ L 169 07.06.2014, p. 0130 Summary	

Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking

PURPOSE: to establish a joint technology initiative in the bio-industries field.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Regulation.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the Council adopts the act after consulting the European Parliament but without being obliged to follow its opinion.

BACKGROUND: the framework programme for research and innovation [Horizon 2020](#) encourages public-private partnerships (PPP) in research and innovation with a view to tackling the major challenges facing Europe.

The Communication outlining the [European Bioeconomy Strategy](#), adopted on 13 February 2012, proposes the creation of a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for bio-based industries (Bio-based PPP) as part of its Action Plan. The Commission Communication [Promoting a stronger European industry for growth and economic recovery](#) reiterates the importance of setting up a Bio-based PPP in the form of a Joint Technology Initiative (JTI) in the context of the EU's industrial policy

Bio-based industries are industries, which use renewable biological resources for the production of bio-based products and biofuels.

They are a cornerstone of the EU bioeconomy in generating growth and jobs and could make a significant contribution to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

The share of bio-based processes in all chemical production taken on its own is likely to increase from less than 2% in 2005 to 25% in 2025. Furthermore, the volume growth of EU bio-based chemical products (including bio-plastics, bio-lubricants, bio-solvents, bio-surfactants and chemical feedstock) will be at 5.3% per year up to 2020, resulting in a market worth EUR 40 billion and 90,000 jobs within the bio-chemical industry alone.

The bio-industries and their value chains are complex as are the technological and innovation challenges that need to be overcome to unlock their potential. As a nascent sector, bio-based industries have to overcome the dispersion of technical competences and the limited publicly available data on real resource availability in order to build sustainable and competitive value chains. The establishment of a joint technology initiative should enable critical mass to be achieved in a focused and coherent way at European level in terms of scale of activity, excellence and potential for innovation.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: the proposal is accompanied by a [summary of the impact assessment](#).

LEGAL BASIS: Articles 187 and 188, first paragraph, of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

CONTENT: this proposal for a Regulation concerns the creation of a Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking as a new scheme of Public-Private Partnership between the Commission and the industry for to implement the joint technology initiative (JTI) for bio-industries.

The Bio-industries JU shall be created for a period that will end on 31 December 2024. Its headquarters will be in Brussels (Belgium). It will be founded by the EU, represented by the European Commission, and the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC). The activities of the BBI JU will be jointly funded by its founders. The Commission and BIC will contribute in equal parts to the running costs of the BBI JU.

The main objective of the JTI will be the transformation of non-edible parts of plants (e.g. wood, agricultural and forestry residues) and biodegradable wastes into bio-based products and biofuels.

The specific objectives of the proposal are the following:

- demonstrate technologies that enable new chemical building blocks, new materials, and new consumer products from European biomass, which replace the need for fossil-based inputs;
- develop business models that integrate economic actors along the value chain from supply of biomass to bio-refinery plants to consumers of bio-based materials, chemicals and fuels, including through creating new cross-sector interconnections and supporting cross-industry clusters; and
- set-up flagship biorefinery plants that deploy the technologies and business models for bio-based materials, chemicals and fuels and demonstrate cost and performance improvements to levels that are competitive with fossil-based alternatives.

The research and demonstration activities will be funded through contributions by the BIC member companies with monetary and non-monetary resources (staff, equipment, consumables, etc.), and monetary resources from the EU. The level of EU resources will vary, in line with Horizon 2020 rules, depending on the type of activity concerned.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: the total budget of the BBI JU will be EUR 2 billion (including in cash and in kind contributions). In addition, the industry has committed to invest EUR 1.8 billion in the establishment of large demonstration and flagship plants contributing to the objectives of this JTI.

The maximum contribution from the European Union (including EFTA) will be EUR 1 billion, paid from the Horizon 2020 budget. The administrative costs shall not exceed EUR 60 million for the duration of the JU.

Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy adopted, in the framework of a special legislative procedure (consultation of Parliament), the report by Lambert van NISTELROOIJ (EPP, NL) on the proposal for a Council regulation on the Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking.

The committee approved the Commission proposal subject to the following amendments:

BBI Joint Undertaking: Members wanted to make it clear that in order to take account of the duration of the [Horizon 2020](#) Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020), all calls for proposals should be launched by 31 December 2020.

Objectives: the BBI Joint Undertaking should have the following objectives:

- addressing the research and innovation priorities laid down in Horizon 2020;
- accelerating economic growth and increasing employment, in particular in rural areas and areas with large biomass resources and potential for developing bio-based products;
- promoting the involvement of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);
- promoting large and small scale technology solutions that will accelerate their use at all levels of the bio-materials value chain, and supporting innovation and the pursuit of new sources of growth that make it possible to take full advantage of intellectual capital;
- contributing to the development of interregional and transnational cooperation;
- setting up flagship biorefinery plants that deploy the sustainable technologies and sustainable business models for bio-based materials, chemicals and fuels;
- ensuring that the outcomes of research into innovative bio-economy technologies are communicated to all entities, including individual farmers.

Scope of activities: Members inserted a new article to clarify the scope of activities of the Joint Undertaking, in particular with respect to the relevant Technology Readiness Levels covered by its research programme. The Rules on Participation also call for a greater consideration of the Technology Readiness Levels concept in relation to funding levels, which is taken up in this article with a view to the funding rates used in indirect actions.

Financial contribution: the maximum Union contribution, including contributions from countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), to the BBI Joint Undertaking to cover administrative costs and operational costs should be EUR 950 million (rather than EUR 1 Billion in the Commission proposal). The contribution should be paid from the appropriations in the general budget of the Union allocated to the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme and in particular from appropriations allocated to the specific objectives "Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies" and "Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime and inland water research, and the bioeconomy"

Additional activities carried out by private members: while the additional activities to be carried out by private members are a welcome addition to the leverage effect of the JTI, they should not be subject to auditing. Additional activities should be planned and carried-out accordingly, determined clearly as in-kind contributions, and reported on annually.

Evaluation: by 30 June 2017 the Commission shall organise an independent interim evaluation of the BBI Joint Undertaking. The results of the independent interim evaluation of the Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking should be taken into account in the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020.

In order to respond to unforeseen situations or to new developments and needs the Commission may, following the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 review the budget of the Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking within the annual budgetary procedure.

Rules for participation and dissemination: work plans of the BBI Joint Undertaking may derogate from the Rules for Participation laid down in Horizon 2020 in order to facilitate and encourage the participation of specific types of participants, namely by limiting the allocation of funding to SMEs, universities, non-profit research organisations, the JRC, and European interest organisations.

In accordance with the principles of transparency and non-discrimination, calls for proposals organised by the BBI Joint Undertaking shall be published on the web-based Horizon 2020 Participant Portal.

Duty to divulge information: the report contains a new provision stating that Members of the staff of the Joint Undertaking, the Executive Director, and members of the Governing Board shall, without delay, report such fraud as might have come to their knowledge in the performance of their duties or office in OLAF provided that this disclosure does not render them liable to prosecution.

Coordination: the Commission should ensure constant coordination between the activities of Horizon 2020 and the activities of the BBI Joint Undertaking by regularly identifying possible complementarities and synergies and by implementing a formal coordination process to fine-tune research priorities.

Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking

The European Parliament adopted by 563 votes to 29, with 81 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council regulation on the Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI).

Parliament approved the Commission proposal subject to the following amendments:

Joint Undertaking: for the implementation of the Joint Technology Initiative on Bio-Based Industries, the BBI Joint Undertaking should be

established until 31 December 2024. In order to take into account the duration of the [Horizon 2020](#) Framework Programme, calls for proposals under BBI shall be launched at the latest by 31 December 2020. In duly justified cases calls for proposals may be launched until 31 December 2021.

The BBI Joint Undertaking should seek to develop close interactions with the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF).

Financial contribution: Members proposed that the maximum Union contribution, including EFTA appropriations to the BBI Joint Undertaking to cover administrative costs and operational costs shall be EUR 975 million.

The Members of the BBI Joint Undertaking other than the Union shall make or arrange for their constituent entities to make a total contribution of at least EUR 2 730 million of which at least EUR 1 755 million are in kind contributions.

Openness and transparency: in order to facilitate participation, the calls for proposals launched by the Joint Undertaking should also be published on the single portal for participants as well as through other Horizon 2020 electronic means of dissemination managed by the Commission.

The Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking should operate in an open and transparent way providing all relevant information in a timely manner to its appropriate bodies as well as promoting its activities, including information and dissemination activities to the wider public and liaising with a broad range of stakeholders including research organisations and universities.

Discharge: in view of the specific nature and the current status of the Joint Undertakings, and in order to ensure continuity with the 7th Framework Programme, the Joint Undertakings should continue to be subject to a separate discharge.

Simplification: for the purpose of simplification, administrative burdens should be reduced for all parties. Double audits and disproportionate documentation and reporting should be avoided.

Evaluation: by 30 June 2017, the Commission should carry out, with the assistance of independent experts, an interim evaluation of the BBI Joint Undertaking, and send a report to the European Parliament and to the Council by 31 December 2017. The results of the interim evaluation of the Joint Undertaking shall be taken into account in the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020.

Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking

PURPOSE: to establish a public-private partnership called the BBI Joint Undertaking for the implementation of the Joint Technology Initiative on Bio-based Industries, in order to strengthen industrial research and innovation in the EU.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Regulation (EU) n° 560/2014 establishing the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking.

CONTENT: the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, [Horizon 2020](#), supports public-private partnerships in research and innovation in order that the Union might tackle certain key challenges.

This Regulation aims to establish a new Joint Undertaking (JU) for the implementation of the Joint Technology Initiative on Bio-based Industries for a period up to 31 December 2024.

The BBI JU is a body entrusted with the implementation of a public-private partnership. Its seat will be located in Brussels, Belgium.

The founding members of the BBI Joint Undertaking should be the Union and the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC), a non-profit organisation whose members cover the entire bio-based value chain and consist of large industries, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), regional clusters, European trade associations, and European Technology Platforms.

In order to take into account the duration of Horizon 2020, calls for proposals under the Joint Undertaking must be launched at the latest by 31 December 2020 (in duly justified cases, by 31 December 2021). Calls for proposals will be published on the single portal for participants as well as through other Horizon 2020 electronic means of dissemination managed by the Commission.

The rules for participation and dissemination of the Horizon 2020 programme will apply to the JU.

Objectives of the JU: the BBI JU will contribute to the implementation of Horizon 2020. It will contribute to the objectives of the BBI Initiative of a more resource efficient and sustainable low-carbon economy and increasing economic growth and employment, in particular in rural areas, by developing sustainable and competitive bio-based industries in Europe based on advanced bio refineries that source their biomass sustainably. Those activities should be carried out through collaboration between stakeholders along the entire bio-based value chains, including primary production and processing industries, consumer brands, SMEs, research and technology centres and universities.

To achieve maximum impact, the BBI Joint Undertaking should develop close synergies with other Union programmes in areas such as education, environment, competitiveness and SMEs, and with the Cohesion Policy funds and Rural Development Policy.

Funding: the Union financial contribution to the JU shall come from Horizon 2020 and amount up to EUR 975 million. The members of the BBI Joint Undertaking other than the Union shall make a total contribution of at least EUR 2 730 000 000 of which in kind contributions will be at least EUR 1 755 000 000.

The Commission may terminate, proportionally reduce or suspend the Unions financial contribution to the JU or trigger the winding-up procedure if members other than the Union, including their constituent entities and affiliated entities, do not provide contributions.

The Regulation contains provisions that aim to ensure the protection of the financial interests of the Members.

The discharge for the implementation of the budget of the JU shall be given by the European Parliament, upon recommendation of the Council in accordance with the procedure provided for in the financial rules of the BBI JU.

Evaluation: by 30 June 2017 the Commission shall carry out, with the assistance of independent experts, an interim evaluation of the JU. It shall send that report to the European Parliament and to the Council by 31 December 2017. The results of the interim evaluation shall be taken into account in the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020.

BBI JUs mandate will end on 31 December 2024 and the JU will be wound up.

