



Council of the  
European Union

**Brussels, 26 November 2015  
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**RECH 291**

**NOTE**

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From: Commission  
To: Council

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Subject: Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in the Bioeconomy - A challenge for Europe - 4th SCAR Foresight Exercise  
- Information from the Commission

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Delegations will find attached information note from the Commission on the above-mentioned subject with a view to the Competitiveness Council on 30 November and 1 December 2015.

## **Fourth SCAR Foresight Exercise**

The fourth Foresight Exercise launched by the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) in spring 2014 explored the interactions between the primary sector and the bioeconomy. With an emphasis on the future, the exercise explored not only what will happen, but also what might happen by developing a paradigm for the bioeconomy under the fundamental constraint of sustainability. The resulting report entitled "Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in the Bioeconomy - A Challenge for Europe"<sup>1</sup> has been presented at a public Conference in Brussels on 8 October 2015.

The fourth SCAR Foresight Exercise highlights three scenarios in a long-term perspective (2050) based on varying levels of biomass supply and demand – "BIO Scarcity", "BIO Modesty" and "BIO Boom" – and which are used to describe opportunities and risks for the different sectors. In parallel, the report calls for an implementation of a sustainable bioeconomy through a set of principles such as "food first", sustainable yields, circularity, and diversity. These scenarios and principles pave the way to the identification of possible priority research and innovation areas and policies for future investment.

The Foresight exercise was carried out by a dedicated group of experts, who engaged all relevant stakeholders from the outset in a fully participatory process. This report, endorsed by SCAR, represents not only a roadmap for a sustainable bioeconomy helping to boost jobs, growth and investment in rural economies, but also an important contribution towards achieving global goals to provide food and nutrition security, tackle climate change, and to sustainably manage our resources.

Member States are encouraged to fully participate in the activities of SCAR and to actively engage in the follow-up of the report and related SCAR activities.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/scar/index.cfm?pg=foresight4th>

The foresight provides an important contribution to the work on the further development of the European and national Bioeconomy strategies and can help guide the discussions on research and innovation investments in the Bioeconomy.

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