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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: BIOEAST conference: "Bioeconomy in the forefront of national policies"
(Budapest, 8 November 2018)
- Information from the Hungarian delegation

Delegations will find in Annex information received from the Hungarian delegation on the above mentioned subject to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council on 17-18 December 2018.

BIOEAST conference: "Bioeconomy in the forefront of national policies"

(Budapest, 8 November 2018)

The high-level international BIOEAST conference has been organized jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on the 8th of November 2018 in Budapest. The event focused on the situation, challenges and opportunities of bioeconomies in the BIOEAST macro-region. (<http://www.bioeast.eu/events>) The conference was expected to be a corner stone in the evolution of the BIOEAST Initiative set by 11 Ministries of Agriculture to boost knowledge based bioeconomies in Central and Eastern Europe.

Delegations from Central and Eastern European Member States, the European Commission's Director-General for Research and Innovation, researchers, international organizations, companies and farmers attended the conference.

The Joint Research Center (JRC), the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) and the Hungarian Research Institute of Agricultural Economics published studies for the first time about the state of play of the bioeconomies in the Central and Eastern European macro-region.

These results have highlighted, that the Central- and Eastern European Member States are rich in biomass, and there is still a considerable amount of unused or under-utilized biomass capacity in food, feed, industrial, or bioenergy utilization. Prevalence of primary production and its deficient effectiveness is a common problem of the region. Therefore, it is of utmost importance for these countries to increase agricultural productivity and the recovery rates of bio-based wastes in the future. The production of valued-added industrial products from biomass is the way forward instead of exporting raw materials.

The main aim of the event was to present and validate the macro-regional and sector-specific strategic research and innovation thematic areas, which are covering bioeconomy, including agricultural knowledge and innovation systems, fresh water aquaculture, forestry, sustainable production and processing of biomass. Defining these thematic areas will allow a more effective contribution to the strategic planning of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe framework programs' objectives in the future.

The result confirmed that there is a lot to do both at national and European Union level. It urges EU cooperation to boost joint research initiatives in order to create value added locally using the Central and Eastern European biomass potential.
