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NOTE

From: Presidency

To: Delegations

Subject: Global Bioeconomy Summit, (Dublin, 20-21 October 2026)
- Presentation by the Presidency

Delegations will find in the Annex a background document on the above-mentioned subject.

Presentation on the Global Bioeconomy Summit 2026

Theme/Context

Overview of policy area: The Global Bioeconomy Summit (GBS) 2026 will bring together leaders from government, science, industry, and civil society to advance a sustainable, innovative, and inclusive global bioeconomy. The Summit will focus on how biobased innovation can move from research and discovery to deployment at scale, while delivering socio-economic transformation, climate action, nature restoration and resilient value chains.

Event details: GBS 2026 will take place on 20-21 October 2026 at The Convention Centre Dublin. A pre-meeting day is planned for 19 October and site visits across the island of Ireland for 22 October. It is jointly organised by the International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy (IACGB) and the Government of Ireland, during Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Purpose of the SCA item: To brief Member State representatives on the Summit's objectives, programme and expected contribution to European and international bioeconomy cooperation, and to encourage high-level participation and national delegations from EU Member States.

Background information

The Global Bioeconomy Summit is an established international conference series convened since 2015. Previous in-person Summits have attracted more than 700 delegates from over 70 countries, representing policy, industry, research, academia, and civil society.

The 2026 theme is "Bioeconomy for socio-economic transformation and climate action". The Summit will explore how the sustainable use of renewable biological resources, knowledge and innovation can support food and energy security, competitiveness, regional development, climate resilience and biodiversity objectives.

Ireland's hosting of GBS 2026 reflects its growing profile in bioeconomy policy, research and innovation, biobased enterprise, circular bioeconomy demonstration and place-based development. The Summit also provides a platform to showcase Ireland's new national bioeconomy strategy and practical demonstration initiatives.

The Summit is designed as a working platform rather than solely a conference. It will combine high-level plenaries, thematic workshops, satellite activities, an exhibition, partnership and networking opportunities, and site visits demonstrating applied bioeconomy solutions.

Programme and expected focus

Plenary 1 - Bioeconomy and multi-dimensional innovation: moving from discovery to scale through aligned research, infrastructure, finance, entrepreneurship, policy, and sustainable biomass supply.

Plenary 2 - Bioeconomy solutions in a world of global crises: scaling practical solutions for climate, food security, livelihoods, resilience, social justice, and nature restoration.

Plenary 3 - Supercharging the bioeconomy: addressing the “missing middle” between strategy and implementation through policy, markets, metrics, finance, and investment, while managing land-use and equity trade-offs.

Plenary 4 – This plenary is particularly important for EU Member States with implementation activities related to the EU Bioeconomy Strategy being launched by Commissioner Roswall and the new Irish bioeconomy strategy, which cascades from the EU bioeconomy strategy, being launched by Minister Heydon. This will highlight the connecting of EU enabling frameworks with national and regional delivery, investable pathways, and predictable market demand, including the proposed launch of a voluntary Bio-based Europe Alliance.

Plenary 5 - Bioeconomy Vision 2040: building on the G20 high-level principles and the COP30 Bioeconomy Challenge to develop forward-looking narratives, partnerships, near-term pledges, and measurable targets.

Three workshop sessions will allow in-depth exchange across policy, science, enterprise, investment, regions, and sectors. Networking, satellite events, exhibition activity and site visits will support practical collaboration and partnership development.

Why this is an important topic at EU level

- 1) **Competitiveness and strategic autonomy:** the bioeconomy can reduce dependence on fossil-based resources and imported inputs, strengthen sustainable European value chains and create new markets for biobased products, materials, and services.
- 2) **Agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and rural/coastal development:** the bioeconomy can provide additional value and diversification opportunities for primary producers, support resource efficiency and circular nutrient use, and generate employment and investment in regions.
- 3) **Climate, nature, and circularity:** sustainably sourced biomass and biobased innovation can contribute to decarbonisation, waste prevention, ecosystem restoration and greater resilience, if sustainability safeguards and competing biomass uses are properly managed.
- 4) **From strategy to implementation:** many countries and regions now have bioeconomy strategies, but deployment is constrained by fragmented regulation, limited scale-up infrastructure, investment risk, uncertain demand, and insufficient measurement frameworks. The Summit will focus directly on these implementation barriers.
- 5) **EU leadership and international cooperation:** GBS 2026 offers the European Union and Member States an opportunity to present an integrated approach linking research, the internal market, industrial policy, agriculture, environment, skills, finance, and regional development, while learning from global partners.
- 6) **EU Presidency opportunity:** holding the Summit during Ireland's EU Council Presidency creates a timely platform to reinforce political attention to the bioeconomy and connect EU policy discussions with tangible projects, regions, enterprises, and international initiatives.

Key messages for Member States

GBS 2026 is intended to accelerate delivery: the event will explore the core question on how to move sustainable biobased solutions from research and demonstration into competitive markets and widespread use. This is complementary global activity aligned with the new EU Bioeconomy Strategy and its implementation activities.

Member State engagement is central: EU Member States are invited to send National delegations which may include representatives responsible for agriculture and food, forestry, marine affairs, research and innovation, enterprise and industry, climate and environment, regional development and finance, together with relevant research and industry stakeholders with the opportunity to identify potential partnerships, strengthen links to investment and EU programmes, and showcase replicable solutions.

The programme will give particular attention to enabling policy frameworks, sustainable biomass mobilisation, infrastructure and scale-up, market creation, metrics, inclusive governance, and international collaboration.

Member States are encouraged to register and participate actively in the Summit and associated activities, and to share information on GBS 2026 with relevant national ministries, agencies, and stakeholder networks.

Practical information

- **Main Summit:** 20-21 October 2026, The Convention Centre Dublin.
- **Associated dates:** Pre-meeting day on 19 October; site visits on 22 October.
- **Participation:** Registration is open through the GBS 2026 website. Programme, delegate information, exhibition and partnership information, and future announcements are available at www.gbs2026.org.
- **Organisers:** International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy, in collaboration with the Government of Ireland.