
Terms of Reference

(Last Update February 2023)

Mission

The **European Green Deal** is a roadmap of key policies and measures to fight against climate change. The aim is to reach climate neutrality, which means no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050, and the decoupling of economic growth from use of resources. Bioenergy as part of a new, modern, emerging bioeconomy, could have an essential contribution to reach that aim.

REPowerEU is the European Commission's plan to make Europe independent from Russian fossil fuels well before 2030. Elements include diversifying energy supplies, encouraging energy saving, and accelerating clean energy deployment. Boosting **hydrogen and biomethane** production is one of the key elements of the plan.

The **Fit-for-55 package** is a set of proposals to revise and update EU legislation to ensure that EU policies are in line with the climate goals of the Green Deal. The most relevant elements with respect to the transport sector are the following:

- review of the Renewable Energy Directive
- revision of the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation
- new ReFuel EU Aviation proposal
- new FuelEU Maritime proposal

EU Member States have agreed on a new policy framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets for the period between 2020 and 2030. The targets include reducing the Union's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 40 % relative to emissions in 1990 and ensuring that at least 27 % of the EU's energy comes from renewable sources. These targets should help to make the EU's energy system more competitive, secure and sustainable, and help it to meet its long-term (2050) GHG reductions target. The energy system in Europe is in a process of profound transformation: the growing share of renewable and decentralized generation, the progressive increase in energy efficiency along the entire energy value chain, the increasing need for flexibility in the energy system, the emergence of the consumer as an active player in the energy system and the appearance of new network users are the main changes affecting the way in which energy producers, operators, regulators and consumers interact in an increasingly complex market.

Bioenergy is a flexible energy form with a wide range and differing energy carriers and densities, for the provision of heat, power and transport energy. Bioenergy has an increasing role in balancing variable contributions of other renewable energies in an integrated European energy system. For specific transport sectors such as long-haul heavy duty and aviation, biofuels are the only low carbon alternative for the next several decades.

The EC Communication from 15 Sep 2015 "Towards an Integrated Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan: Accelerating the European Energy System Transformation" identifies the strategic priorities and actions needed to accelerate this EU energy system transformation in a cost-effective way. The new Integrated SET-Plan needs greater prioritisation, integration, coordination and ownership. It will identify gaps, duplication and synergies at the EU and national level, and will take advantage of opportunities to

blend the digital and physical worlds in the energy domain. At the same time, the new plan has to be open to the world by addressing international cooperation in handling global challenges.

The SET-Plan has the objective to accelerate the development and deployment of low-carbon technologies through cooperation among EU countries, companies, research institutions, and the EU itself, based on common priorities, targets and actions for coming years. It will provide the overall framework for promoting strengthened cooperation in R&I between the EU, Member States and stakeholders (research and industry), in order to step up the efforts to bring new, efficient and cost-competitive low-carbon technologies to the market faster and deliver the energy transition in a cost-competitive way.

In particular, the Integrated SET-Plan:

- Identifies 10 actions for research and innovation, based on an assessment of the needs of the energy system and on their importance for the transformation of the energy system, as well as their potential to create growth and jobs in the EU. The entire innovation chain has been addressed for these actions, from basic research to market uptake, both in terms of financing and regulatory framework.
- Adapts the structures set up under the SET-Plan to ensure more effective interaction with Member States and stakeholders.
- Proposes to measure progress as part of the annual reporting of the State of the Energy Union via overall Key Performance Indicators (KPI's), such as the level of investment in R&I, as well as specific KPI's to measure progress on the performance and cost-reduction capabilities of the priorities.

The European Technology and Innovation Platforms (ETIPs) bring together stakeholders from academia, industry, and civil society involved in the development of research and innovation strategies for energy technologies, who interact with relevant public authorities of the Member States as well as the European Commission. The aim is to come to a coordinated, coherent, and efficient implementation of the objectives of the Energy Union including the 2030 Framework scenario and the 2050 Roadmap for a secure, affordable, competitive and efficient energy system.

The **mission of the European Technology and Innovation Platform Bioenergy** (ETIP Bioenergy) is to contribute to the development of cost-competitive, innovative world-class bioenergy, biofuels and other renewable liquid and gaseous fuel value chains including Renewable Fuels of Non-Biological origin (RFNBO) beyond hydrogen, to the creation and strengthening of a healthy European bioenergy industry and to accelerate the sustainable deployment of bioenergy and renewable fuels in the European Union through a process of guidance, prioritization and promotion of research, technological development and demonstration.

For bioenergy, the thematic focus lies in, but is not limited to, a number of priority value chains, add-on technologies and pre-treatment technologies, as reflected on the ETIP-B website.

To avoid overlap with the hydrogen JTI, renewable hydrogen is included only to the extent where synergies with bioenergy value chains exist or can be expected.

To this purpose the following activities will be pursued:

- Contributing to the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) activities and strategy.
- In particular, providing strategic recommendations to and input for the SET Plan Steering Group on the 10 priorities.
- Prioritisation within the 10 key actions of both objectives and implementation actions at the EU, national or regional level.
- Mobilisation of actors towards implementation activities.
- Contribution to future updates of the SET Plan Integrated Roadmap; main Role: strategic advice to the EC and the Steering Group based on consensus.
- Reporting on the implementation of R&I activities at the European, national/regional and industrial levels to support the work of SETIS.
- Developing of knowledge-sharing mechanisms that help bringing R&I results to deployment.

- Helping define priorities, strategies, R&I investment decisions and programmes; e.g. by elaborating and updating Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas (SRIA) including crosscutting issues.
- Identifying ongoing RD&D activities relevant to the SRIA and stimulating appropriate synergies between actors and projects.
- Collaborating between stakeholders in addressing energy system integration challenges; coordinating with other bodies and initiatives engaged in bioenergy and renewable fuels RD&D, including other EU Technology and Innovation Platforms, Member State initiatives and international (ex-EU) cooperation.
- Identifying technical and non-technical barriers to the delivery of innovation to the energy market; such as mechanisms to mobilise investments, demonstration activities, regulations, education and training actions and communication.
- Assisting the European Commission and Member States in defining and implementing the research programmes and financial instruments, as well as addressing the mentioned barriers.
- Communication regarding the platform activities, with due consideration to public perception and understanding of advanced bioenergy and biofuels.

Background and foundation

Major investments in research and innovation, including demonstration and flagship plants, are needed to develop and deploy the technologies required for the transformation towards a decarbonised energy system. To address such a significant investment challenge, it is imperative that public and private stakeholders involved in the relevant sectors join their forces, agree on common objectives and align strategies for achieving them.

The ETIP Bioenergy combines the efforts of the European Biofuels Technology Platform (EBTP), which started in 2006, and the European Industrial Bioenergy Initiative (EIBI), which commenced in 2010 and was discontinued after 2017.

Following the vision report of the Biofuels Research Advisory Council (BIOFRAC)– “Biofuels in the European Union: a vision for 2030 and beyond” –which was presented at the platform’s launching conference on 8 June 2006, EBTP has prepared Strategic Research Agendas and Strategic Deployment Documents in 2008, 2010, 2016 and 2018 and is currently working on SRIA 2023. These reports addressed the main issues of relevance to favour technological breakthrough in production of sustainable biofuels and increase their deployment in the EU, with an emphasis on research, development and demonstration to overcome technical and nontechnical barriers as well as other support measures and issues surrounding regulation and legislation.

EIBI, including significant contributions by EBTP, developed two Bioenergy Implementation Plans covering the years 2011-2013 and 2013-2017, respectively. In 2018, ETIP Bioenergy has been co-chairing the SET-Plan Temporary Working Group 8, developing an Implementation Plan (IP) on SET-Plan Action 8 “Bioenergy and Renewable Fuels for Sustainable Transport”. This IP describes the Research and Innovation (R&I) activities that need to be implemented in order to achieve the strategic targets adopted in the SET Plan Declaration of Intent (DoI), agreed on in December of 2016 by the representatives of the European Commission services, SET Plan countries and stakeholders most directly involved in the respective sectors. The IP describes the activities, measures and investments which are required to scale up bioenergy and renewable fuel solutions and bring them to the market.

The focus of this IP is on bioenergy and renewable fuel solutions for sustainable transport and biomass CHP, mainly large scale. The following targeted technologies are addressed: renewable fuels for sustainable transport (automotive, maritime and aviation fuels, as well as hydrogen produced from renewable sources), bioenergy intermediate carriers and large-scale biomass CHP.

ETIP Bioenergy is rooted in the renewable energy sector, but has strong links to the bioeconomy, industrial economy and the transport sector as well. Synergies will be sought wherever possible. ETIP Bioenergy is closely linked to the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) of the European Commission. ETIP Bioenergy builds on the renewed recognition of EBTP by DG RTD from 12 July 2013, for ensuring that EU research has a high impact in leading markets and technology areas with the overall objective of closing the gap with global innovation leaders and boosting jobs and growth in the EU.

Platform Stakeholders and Members

The ETIP Bioenergy may include representatives of all relevant stakeholder groups. Such organisations are allowed to assign members to the various platform bodies.

Members are authoritative individuals that are able to contribute to the objectives of the Platform through work and advice based on relevant expertise and experience.

The platform is a wide open forum, therefore stakeholders are welcome from all parties involved with the development of sustainable bioenergy and renewable fuels: agricultural & forest products producers and common interest groups, industry and industry associations, research and technology organisations, academia, governmental bodies, civil society, the general public, etc. The European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) and the Biomass Panel of the ETIP Renewable Heating and Cooling (RHC) are invited to nominate one Steering Committee member each.

Member States play an important role in providing public funding for research and innovation and in creating favourable framework conditions for bioenergy and renewable fuels, and close liaison will be sought.

Organisation and operation

The ETIP Bioenergy is composed of a Steering Committee, Working Groups, an Advisory Board, a Coordination Group, a Stakeholder Plenary, and a Secretariat; it is currently supported by a Horizon Europe funded Coordination and Support Action (CSA).

I. Steering Committee

The **Steering Committee (SC)** is the decision-making body and executive arm of the ETIP Bioenergy and as such directs all activities of the ETIP Bioenergy, being accountable for:

- Defining the roles and responsibilities within the Platform and outlining operations.
- Compliance with the Platform's Mission and related activities.
- Approval and launching of activities: objectives, timing, scope.
- Follow-up activities and approval of deliverables.
- Setting high-level policy: coordination with external bodies and initiatives, communication and general organization.
- Final elaboration of key deliverables (Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda) with active support from Secretariat and ETIP Bioenergy-SABS, based on the contributions from the Working Groups, thus ensuring harmonization of content and integrity of the messages.

The ETIP Bioenergy Steering Committee may have 30-35 members. It is expected to have a balanced composition with regard to members' nationalities and stakeholder groups (to include representatives of all main industries involved as well as research establishments, academic research bodies, the civil society and other organisations with relevant expertise or interest on advanced biofuels, renewable fuels and bioenergy).

Members of the SC are listed in annex 1.

Members are appointed for a 3-year term and may be reappointed. Members serve in a personal capacity and substitutions at meetings should be on an exceptional basis, with prior informed consent of the Chairperson. Active presence at meetings is expected; low level of attendance (less than 1 personal attendance at a Steering Committee Meeting/year) might lead to exclusion from the Steering Committee. Members should both bring their individual expertise and, when appropriate, represent the collective view of their stakeholder group, not specifically their own company or institute. If necessary, and with the agreement of a majority (two thirds) of the existing members of the Steering Committee, new stakeholders may be added in order to achieve a balanced composition to best suit its functions.

A Chairperson and a maximum of three Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected by the Members of the SC on the basis of personal capacities and reflecting sound representation of stakeholders. These officers shall serve for a 2-year period and may be reappointed.

The membership of the SC and position of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons are voluntary and are not subject to remuneration.

Individuals, representing organisations of relevance to the ETIP Bioenergy, may be invited to attend SC meetings as Observers. Nominations for Observers are approved by the Chairperson, in agreement with the Vice-chairpersons. Observers may attend all Steering Committee meetings. Observers may intervene during these meetings but have no voting rights.

SC decisions will be taken by consensus wherever possible. Each Member of the Steering Committee has one vote and decision will be taken on the basis of a majority (two thirds) of votes, should consensus not be achieved. For decisions taken at meetings, the number of SC members present in the meeting will be the basis for determining majority. SC decisions could also be taken in writing between SC meetings. Such "written approvals" should be issued by the Secretariat and sent to all Steering Committee members by email. The email should contain the suggested decision and ask for approval, giving at least 14 days time for SC members to respond. Not responding to the email will be counted as affirmative vote (tacit approval). Once the deadline of the written approval has passed, the Secretariat shall inform all SC members of the outcome.

Meetings of the Steering Committee will be held periodically, at least three times a year. The Steering Committee will submit the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda and its positions, opinions, recommendations and reports to the European Commission and all stakeholders in due course. Copies of these records will be made available to other bodies upon request. They will be made available to the scientific community and to the public in general through the Technology Platform website: <https://www.etipbioenergy.eu/>

The elected Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Steering Committee will guide the work of the Secretariat in the overall planning and co-ordination of the activities of the Platform, and in taking ad-hoc decisions. The Steering Committee will be consulted when there is sufficient time available. Ad-hoc decisions will be discussed in the following Steering Committee meeting.

II. Working Groups and Task Forces

On the advice and request of the Steering Committee, **Working Groups (WGs)** can be established in order to develop the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda and to support subsequent deployment and implementation of the Agenda and other activities of relevance to the ETIP Bioenergy's mission. The SC shall propose a Chairperson and one or two Vice-Chairpersons for each WG. These officers will assist the SC in selection of Members for the WGs and be responsible for proposing and implementing the activities of the WGs according to objectives validated with the SC. WG Chairs are invited to SC meetings as observers.

The SC has agreed that the selection of members of the WGs is based on the following criteria:

- Technical competence of individuals based on their professional profile.
- Individual commitment to the work involved.
- Expected technical support from company or institution, company profile and formal commitment to allocate adequate resources to the task.
- Recognized records of previous individual or company contributions to the development of advanced bioenergy and renewable fuels, e.g. contributions to ETIP Bioenergy, R&I programmes and publications.
- A diversity of country representation from EU-27, as bioenergy issues reflect significant regional and sectoral differences. This diversity will be attempted without compromising technical competence and commitment to work.
- An adequate balance of industry vs. research/public centres will be established in order to preserve the Platform as an industry-led body.

The current working group structure is presented in annex 3.

In addition, Task Forces of limited duration can be formed on request by Members of the Steering Committee.

III. The Advisory Board

The role of the Advisory Board (AB) is to give advice and feedback to the activities of the ETIP Bioenergy. The Advisory Board consists of the technical experts appointed by Member States involved in Bioenergy as identified in the SET Plan priorities (one per Member State) and European Commission Officials from DG RTD, the founding organisation of the ETIP who oversees the ETIP's activities.

The AB will meet at least once a year in an extended meeting together with the ETIP Bioenergy Steering Committee. Additional meetings will be convened whenever necessary on the decision of the Coordination Group. The AB is chaired by DG RTD of the European Commission.

Members that approved their Membership in the AB are listed in annex 4.

IV. The Coordination Group

The Coordination Group (CG) is formed by the chair of the Steering Committee and one representative from the Secretariat of the platform, two representatives of the AB from Member States and two representatives of the European Commission/DG RTD. The non-SC members of the CG will have observer status at SC meetings. The CG is chaired by the platform and is in charge of coordinating the work between the SC and the AB. Its role is to support and provide impetus to the ETIP Bioenergy so that the relevant actions included in the SET-Plan are implemented timely and completely. The CG will be in charge of:

- Organising the meetings of the AB
- Preparing draft agendas for the AB
- Monitoring the implementation of the decisions agreed on by the AB
- Coordination between SC and AB.

The MS representatives of the Coordination Group are nominated by the AB.

V. Secretariat and support to ETIP Bioenergy

Activities of ETIP Bioenergy are supported by Coordination and Support Actions (CSA) funded from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme. This includes the Secretariat, which is a service-oriented body facilitating the various processes of the technology platform and providing its general internal management, administration, information and communication functions. The CSA project teams work independently from ETIP Bioenergy, but rely on contributions from ETIP Bioenergy SC and WG members for their work under the Horizon Europe Grant Agreements. Details can be found in Annex 5.

The CSA project teams maintain a strictly neutral position in regard to policy setting and orientation of the final documents and deliverables of the Platform. The CSA Team will indicate which communications are made on behalf of the project consortium and which are made on behalf of ETIP Bioenergy. Communications made on behalf of ETIP Bioenergy require the consent of the SC, or SC chair and vice chairs in urgent cases.

VI. Stakeholder Plenary

The Plenary is the community of Stakeholders that participate in the Platform through various communication channels (in particular the website and Plenary Meetings every 1 1/2 years) in order to:

- Facilitate information dissemination to stakeholders concerning the platform activities.
- Facilitate interaction between stakeholders to stimulate future cooperation in collaborative R&I projects.
- Receive inputs from stakeholders for platform strategy-setting and key deliverables via consultation processes as established by the Steering Committee.

Inclusiveness, Transparency and Communication

1. The ETIP Bioenergy is open to all interested stakeholders that support, in a non-dogmatic manner and on the basis of consensus, the aim of strengthening research, development and innovation efforts in Europe in the advanced biofuels, renewable fuels and bioenergy sectors.
2. Summaries of meeting reports and working documents will be made available to stakeholders on the website of the ETIP Bioenergy <https://www.etipbioenergy.eu/>.

Dissemination of information presented and generated in the activities of ETIP Bioenergy

To fulfil their mission, the Steering Committee, Working Groups and Secretariat are to discuss and develop a range of documents and relevant information. Once approved at the SC level, the information is intended to be widely disseminated either in printed form or through the ETIP Bioenergy website and newsletters. To prevent the circulation of draft documents and potentially sensitive information which could be misused, draft documents should be considered as confidential unless specifically stated otherwise.

Any SC or WG member who wishes to circulate such information outside the ETIP Bioenergy must have the authorisation (by e-mail) from the Secretariat, who will confer with the SC Chair and the author of the information where necessary.

Annex 1: List of members of Steering Committee (as of February 2023)

SC-Members	Company/Organisation	Country
Arasto, Antti	VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland	Finland
Christou, Myrsini	CRES	Greece
De Gregorio, Margarita	EERA Bioenergy	Spain
Gírio, Francisco	National Laboratory of Energy and Geology	Portugal
Grammelis, Panagiotis	CERTH/CPERI	Greece
Helseth, Jonas	Bellona	Norway
Janhunen, Marko	UPM	Finland
Jeuland, Nicolas	SAFRAN Group	France
Klintbom, Patrik	RISE	Sweden
Lehmus, Petri	Neste	Finland
Marchand, Philippe	Biofuels expert	France
Möller, Björn Fredriksson	St1 Biogas AB	Sweden
Nyström, Ingrid	Swedish Knowledge Centre for Renewable Transportation Fuels	Sweden
Pitkänen, Patrick	St1 Oy	Finland
Risbjerg Sørensen, Hanne	Ørsted A/S	Denmark
Sandquist, Judit	SINTEF	Norway
Stefenson, Per	Stena Teknik	Sweden
van Ree, René	Wageningen Research	The Netherlands
Venendaal, René	BTG	The Netherlands
Viguié, Jean-Christophe	IFP Energies nouvelles	France
Wieczorek, Piotr	Department of Fuels and Bioeconomy at Łukasiewicz Research Network - Automotive Industry Institute (Łukasiewicz - PIMOT)	Poland

Annex 2: SC Chair and Vice Chairs

Chair: Patrik Klintbom, RISE

Vice Chair(s): Antti Arasto, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland

René Venendaal, BTG

Annex 3: Working Groups and Chairs

WG1: Biomass availability

Chair: Calliope Panoutsou (Imperial College Centre for Energy Policy & Technology)

Vice-Chair: Lauri Sikanen (Luke)

WG2: Conversion process

Chair: Dina Bacovsky (BEST)

Vice-Chairs: Francisco Girio (LNEG)

WG3: End use and product distribution

Chair: Philippe Marchand

Vice-Chair: Dorothee Lahaussais (Toyota Motor Europe, Powertrain Engineering Division)

WG 4: Policy and sustainability

Chair: Marc Londo (Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University)

Vice Chair: Béatrice Perrier (Stellantis)

Annex 4: Members of the ETIP Bioenergy Advisory Board

Advisory Board Members	Affiliation	Country
Christou, Myrsini	Center for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving	Greece
Cotana, Franco	CIRIAF - Università degli Studi di Perugia	Italy
Domínguez Pérez, Francisco José	Renewable Energy Directorate at IDAE – Ministry of Energy, Tourism and Agenda Digital	Spain
Karlsen, Per Arne	Research Council of Norway	Norway
Kerckow, Birger	Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR)	Germany
Smedema, Freek	RvO	The Netherlands
Lindmark, Jonas	Swedish Energy Agency	Sweden
Isil, Isik-Gülsac	TUBITAK Marmara Research Center	Turkey
Pollak, Kurt	New Energies & Strategies	Austria
Ritonummi, Timo	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment	Finland
Thornley, Patricia	University of Manchester	United Kingdom

Annex 5: Support to ETIP Bioenergy

The ETIP-B2022-2025 consortium, consisting of BEST, ETA-Florence, CSD, EUREC and Rise Innventia, is EU funded as a Horizon Europe project under contract no 101075503 from 1 June 2022 until 31 May 2025. More details are available on CORDIS: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101075503>