



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Deputy Director-General Research Programmes

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NOTE TO THE ATTENTION OF [REDACTED],
[REDACTED] OF THE BBI JU [REDACTED],
AND THE BBI JU [REDACTED]

Subject: Partial suspension of the Union contribution to the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking operational costs for 2017

Article 12.4 of the Statutes of the BBI JU, appended to Council Regulation 560/2014, sets out that BIC is expected to make a financial contribution to the operational costs of the BBI JU of € 182.5 million. The Commission proposal for the BBI JU¹ indicates that BIC was expected to deliver € 17.5 million in-cash contributions at programme level in 2014, 2015 and 2016. To date, only € 0.75 million was delivered by BIC in 2016 at programme level, while around € 2.2 million have been delivered at project level in 2014 and similar amounts can be expected in the 2015 and 2016 calls, amounting to a cumulated shortage on the order of € 50 million in total for the period 2014-2016.

Following our discussions at the last Governing Board meeting, I would like to inform you that, in line with article 4.5 of Council Regulation 560/2014 establishing the BBI JU, the EC has taken the necessary steps to suspend € 50 million out of the planned € 131 million EC contribution to BBI JU operational costs in 2017, leading to a € 81 million contribution in 2017. This decision will be reflected in the Commission's proposal for a draft budget 2017 and the BBI JU Financing Decision for 2017.

This partial suspension and move of budget to later stages would leave BIC the possibility of still honoring its in-cash commitments in the course of the initiative and we expect BIC to come forward with concrete plans on how to achieve this objective. Of course, if this is not the case, the European Commission reserves the right to proportionally reduce its contribution to the BBI JU at a later stage, in line with article 4.5 of Council Regulation 560/2014.

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Rudolf Strohmeier

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52013PC0496&qid=1455548705840&from=EN>