

4 Motors for Europe: Economic mission to Brussels and Flanders

Green chemistry, advanced and biobased materials, and recycling of plastics

Programme of the mission

23rd November

At the THON EU Hotel, Rue d'Arlon 81, European Quarter in Brussels

- *From 11:00: Welcome coffee* - arrival of the delegations
- *11.30 - 12.30: Round table "Green chemistry, advanced and biobased materials, and recycling of plastics – Good practices from the Four Motors for Europe"* with technical actors of the 4 Motors for Europe and the intervention of **Mrs. Emmanuelle Maire**, Head of Unit B.1 Circular economy, sustainable production and consumption, DG ENVI - European Commission

On 20 March 2022, the European Commission presented its new circular economy package. This legislative package consists of several initiatives that aim to make "sustainable products the norm in the EU, stimulate circular business models and empower consumers for the green transition". A first part of the package on eco-design of sustainable products was already published earlier this year. At the end of November, five official texts are expected, specifically a policy framework for bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics, as well as a revision of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive to strengthen the essential requirements for packaging and to establish measures and targets for the prevention of packaging waste at EU level. We think this is an interesting framework for our mission and then for Flanders.

- *12:30 - 14:00: Networking cocktail* lunch with European networks on circular economic issues, regional delegations, enterprises, and clusters coming from our Regions and involved in the mission

14:30 : Departure by bus to Ghent in Flanders

- *16:00 – 17:30 : Visit of the Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant*

Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant is an independent, state-of-the-art facility that operates from a laboratory level to a multi-ton scale. Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant is a service provider for process development, scale-up and custom manufacturing of biobased products and processes. A wide and flexible spectrum of modular unit operations combined with the experience of our highly competent

engineers and technicians enables us to translate your biobased lab protocol into a viable industrial process.

Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant enables the conversion of renewable feedstocks into biochemicals, biomaterials, biofuels and other bioproducts by using technologies such as biomass pretreatment, biocatalysis, (gas)fermentation, green chemistry and product recovery and purification.

17:30 – 18:30: Transfer to Antwerp (+ hotels check-in)

- **20:00: Networking dinner** between regional delegations

24 November

8:45 – 9:30 : Meeting point : Antwerp Central Station and Transfer to BlueChem

- **9:30 – 10:30 : Visit and presentation of BlueChem**
BlueChem is the first incubator for sustainable chemistry in Belgium and the ideal place for start-ups and growth companies to innovate, develop and succeed. This unique public-private partnership brings together industry, academia and government with the common ambition of helping promising start-ups and young companies to grow to industrial scale. Open innovation and mutual knowledge exchange make BlueChem the place to be for pioneering innovations and cutting-edge research and development
- **10:45 – 12:15: Presentation of the Catalisti cluster**
*At Catalisti, the cluster spearheading innovation in the chemical and plastics sectors, we talk business for business. As the first and one of seven spearhead clusters or open innovation clusters in Flanders, the programme and project managers create successful synergies between companies of all sizes, universities and research institutes to accelerate the transition to sustainable chemistry and plastics.
Catalisti is a team of specialists that initiates, captures and facilitates open innovation projects in the cluster network as a neutral partner, ensuring agreement and alignment. Their experience in many projects makes them an essential partner: Catalisti helps accelerate innovation and contributes to creating a more competitive and sustainable business.*
- **12:15 – 13:00: Networking lunch**
- **Until 14:30: Face-to-face B2B meeting session** (*do not forget to register on the platform to book your meetings : <https://green-chemistry-materials.b2match.io/>)
- **14:30: end of the mission**