

Competing for the Nature-Positive Economy: How Can Sustainable Chemistry Drive Europe's Next Global Lead?

Europe has a unique opportunity in the global race to build a nature-positive economy, combining innovation, industrial transformation, and ecosystem restoration.

The International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3) and the Bioeconomy Revier Rheinland invite you to join a dynamic EU Green Week partner event in Brussels that will explore how Sustainable Chemistry can enable Europe to take a global lead. The ISC3 is hosted by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

Global competition is intensifying, with regions such as North and South America and Asia rapidly investing in biorefineries, biobased materials, and circular production systems. The chemical industry, vital to nearly every sector, will play a central role, leveraging biobased, circular, and resource-efficient solutions to transition from fossil-based to renewable and regenerative production.

This event will bring together policy makers, industry leaders, international partners, and innovation stakeholders to discuss how Europe can translate its innovation leadership into a global competitive advantage while accelerating the shift toward a nature-positive economy. The international aspects will focus on stakeholders of particular relevance, especially those connected to recent political interactions and agreements between Europe and MERCOSUR and India.

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Organisers & Venue

The ISC3 and the Bioeconomy Revier Rhineland (hosted by the Forschungszentrum Jülich) will co-host this partner event, taking place at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Representation to the EU, Rue du Trône 108, 1050 Brussels.

Date & Time: 18 June 2026 | 14:00 – 17:00 (CET)

Objectives

- Highlight the role of Sustainable Chemistry and biobased innovation in Europe's nature-positive economy
- Bring industry experience and real-world examples into policy discussions.
- Explore how Europe can translate innovation leadership into global competitiveness.
- Discuss strategic international cooperation, particularly with India and Mercosur
- Strengthen collaboration between policy, industry, regional innovation ecosystems, and global partners.

Key Messages

A nature-positive economy is Europe's next global competitive advantage. Sustainable Chemistry bridges innovation, industrial transformation, and ecosystem regeneration. Biobased and circular solutions reduce fossil dependency and create lead markets embedded in new global value chains. Europe must strengthen global partnerships and anchor sustainability standards. Public-private collaboration is essential to scale nature-positive solutions globally.

Target Audience (40–50 participants)

- EU Policy Actors: Selected representatives from European Commission services and EU institutions with a focus on bioeconomy and sustainability.
- Industry: Leaders from the European chemical sector, including companies active in biobased and circular innovation.
- Innovation Ecosystems: Representatives from bioeconomy regions, clusters, and research organizations driving industrial innovation.
- International Partners: Key partners from strategic global regions, including India and Mercosur.

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Event Format

Motivational Welcome – ISC3, Bioeconomy Revier Rheinland, and GIZ will kick off the event, setting the scene and highlighting the role Sustainable Chemistry can have for a nature-positive Europe.

Expert Conversation – A lively moderated discussion bringing together thought leaders and experts from industry, policy, regional, and international ecosystems. Participants include representatives from Cefic, DG Environment (bioeconomy), regional bioeconomy actors, like-minded Indian bioeconomy/biotech institutions, and Mercosur partners.

Industry Stories – Short pre-recorded testimonial videos from European companies showcase innovation pathways, real-world successes, and lessons learned, sparking reflection and dialogue.

Open Circle Fishbowl Discussion (in-person) - A dynamic fishbowl format with short impulse statements sets the stage for a lively and interactive exchange. Selected audience members can temporarily join the conversation, contributing 2–3 fresh perspectives and making the discussion truly collaborative.

Professional Facilitation – A skilled facilitator will guide the conversation, ensuring it is engaging, inclusive, and solution-oriented.

Optional: Event Summary Video – The event will be professionally recorded and edited into a summary video, capturing key insights and discussions. This video can be used by EU Green Week and event partners for wider dissemination and impact.

Guiding Questions

- What role do biobased and circular solutions from the Sustainable Chemistry space play in enabling Europe's nature-positive economy?
- What role can Sustainable Chemistry play in a circular biobased economy?
- How can Europe translate innovation leadership into global competitiveness?
- How can partnerships and strategic collaboration between policy, industry, and international actors position EU standards, prepare lead markets and accelerate the global transition?

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Indicative Agenda

- 14:00 – Welcome & Scene Setting – ISC3, Bioeconomy Rhine Revier
- 14:15 – Expert Conversation: Sustainable Chemistry & Europe’s Global Lead – including industry video testimonials
- 15:30 – Interactive Open Circle Discussion – audience joins panel
- 16:40 – Closing Reflections & Key Takeaways
- 17:00 – End of Event

Expected Outcomes

- Strengthened dialogue between EU institutions, industry, and international partners of strategic relevance.
- Increased visibility for Sustainable Chemistry and biobased innovation for a nature-positive economy.
- Identification of mutually beneficial partnership opportunities between Europe and global bioeconomy regions or stakeholders, fostering collaboration that delivers shared value and sustainable growth.
- Concrete contributions to policy discussions on Europe’s role in the global nature-positive economy.