

Comments to the SCAR Foresight Opinion paper

ARCH appreciates being invited to submit comments to the SCAR Opinion on the 4th SCAR Foresight report “Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in the Bioeconomy - A Challenge for Europe”.

Representatives of ARCH have been involved at various stages of the 4th SCAR Foresight process and as a group supports and appreciates the work carried out, but also the consultation processes.

It is felt that in a document of just a few pages too much space has been given to describing “**Why a SCAR Foresight on Bioeconomy**”. It would be better to come quicker to the point of this introduction i.e. the purpose of the Opinion paper and in addition it is important to start by describing what this paper intends to address and which group it targets.

In general it is good to **highlight certain words** or phrases to allow the reader to focus and capture key points.

“The main messages and challenges to current views”:

This section contains a comment about the bioeconomy (“Complexity....”) and then refers to the principles as described in the Foresight report. However, there is an imbalance between writing “**Sustainability** needs to be the guiding principle” and “**Food** deserves the **highest priority**”.

In the main messages section point c should be called Global societal challenges to reflect the link between people and between knowledge across different fields, technologies and disciplines.

ARCH thoroughly supports the “*Food first*” principle, but also the other principles which also mention the global level. The five principles in chapter 5 could be interlinked to avoid the inherent risk that the principles pull in different directions. Please use “Food and Nutrition Security” (FNS) and not just food security. This is extremely relevant and important both in Europe as well as developing countries. The concept and principle should be included in this section.

“Priorities for research and innovation”:

This section is very good but tends to be more like guidance for selection of specific research and as such departs from the themes as listed in the Foresight report. This guidance could be backed up by briefly referring to the 8 themes listed and described in the report.

“Consequences for the organisation of research and innovation within the ERA”:

This section is very welcome but its structure could be improved to make it easier to retain a quick overview of the messages. Could this be Knowledge and Innovation systems with certain characteristics?

Whilst supporting the idea of less focus and weighting of bibliometric measurement of performance ARCH encourages a more multi-faceted approach to measurement rather than “..discourage the pervasive use of bibliometric indices as a measurement of performance and achievements.”

“Impact on other policies”:

It is suggested that paragraphs 2 (“Subsidies and regulations...”) and 4 (“Probably more ...”) of the section are deleted as they are too detailed for this limited paper.

Please consider finishing the opinion paper with a list of bullet points of between ½ and 1 page as “**Messages**”.