

Renewable Carbon Sources processing to fuels and chemicals

Brussels, 9-10 July 2015



EU-Canada Workshop

Canada

Analysis of the questionnaire

Background

The participants at the workshop entitled « Renewable Carbon Sources processing to fuels and chemicals » were requested, after the event, to complete a *Workshop Appreciation Form* (WAF). The aim was to give the opportunity to the participants to express their opinion whether the Workshop was of interest to them and their work and to propose ideas for future actions, if desirable for their companies/universities/associations. The Workshop Appreciation Form is given in Annex I.

A total 75 persons attended the workshop from which 17 from Canada (including 5 participants from Canadian representations in the EU) among which 45 WAFs were completed and sent back to the organizing committee. The analysis has been done on an anonymous basis. All 12 Canadian scientists and industrialists submitted a WAF. The overall distribution of submitted WAFs is given in Figure 1.

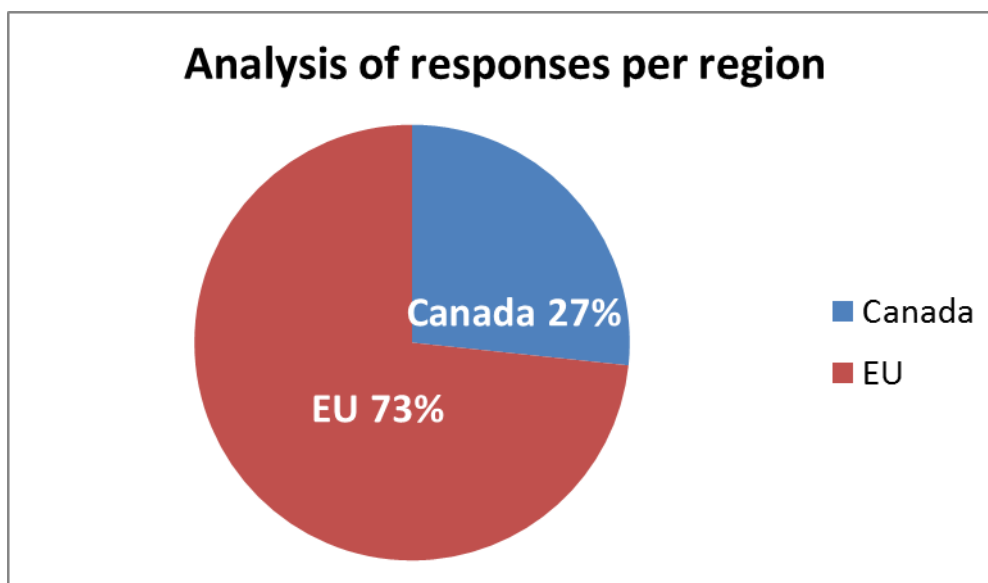


Figure 1: EU/Canada submissions of Workshop Appreciation Form

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The last question gave the possibility to the participants to propose suggestions for future actions. Thirty one responders (69%) completed this section of the WAF providing their suggestions.

In the following sections the responses are analysed per question raised.

Q1: Was this workshop valuable for your work/company/organization?

All but one participant found that the Workshop was valuable for their work as indicated in Figure 2.

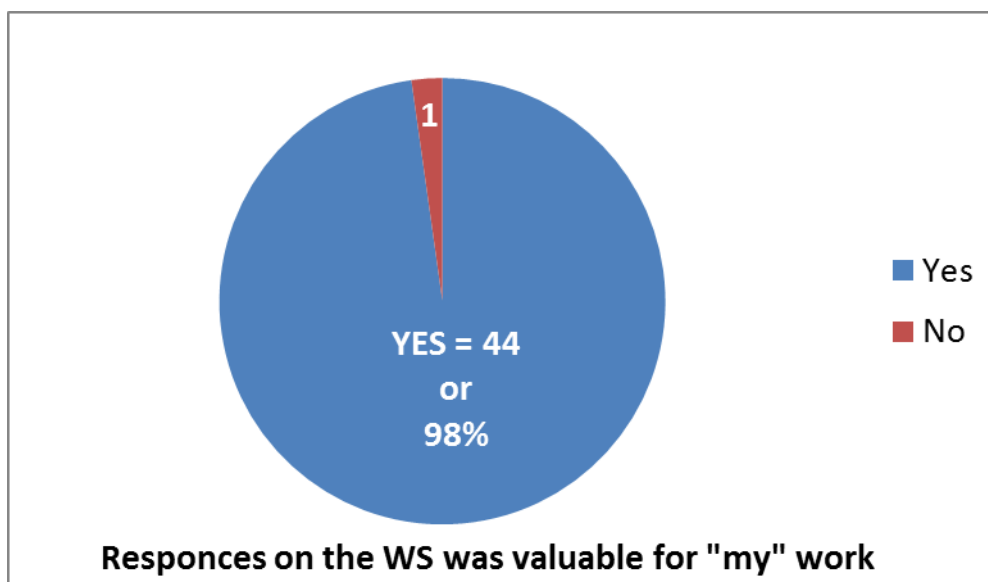


Figure 2: Responses to the first question

Q2: Was your participation in this workshop valuable in networking with research and technology developers from the other side?

As in Question one all but one participant found that the Workshop was valuable in networking with research and technology developers from the other side. This is shown in figure 3 below.

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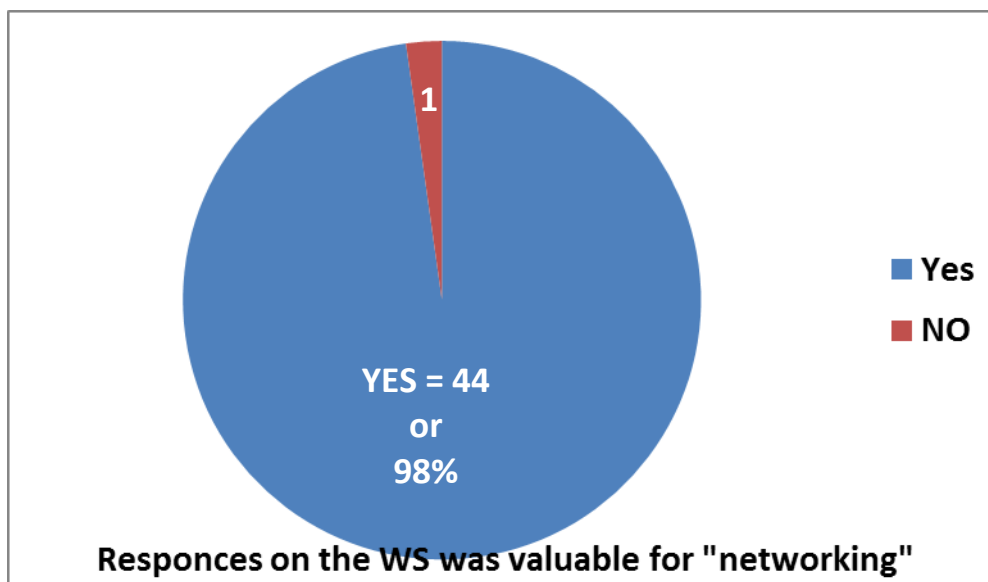


Figure 3: Responses to the 2nd question

- Q3: Which of the following represents your position following this workshop in view of future actions**
- a. I am happy with the actual situation, no need to take any new actions.**
 - b. I would like to have such workshop repeated on a yearly basis. It would be sufficient for my work/company/organization.**
 - c. I would like a program or a structure that could facilitate closer cooperation in view of joint projects in R&D, demo and 1st of a kind in addition to taking such annual meetings**

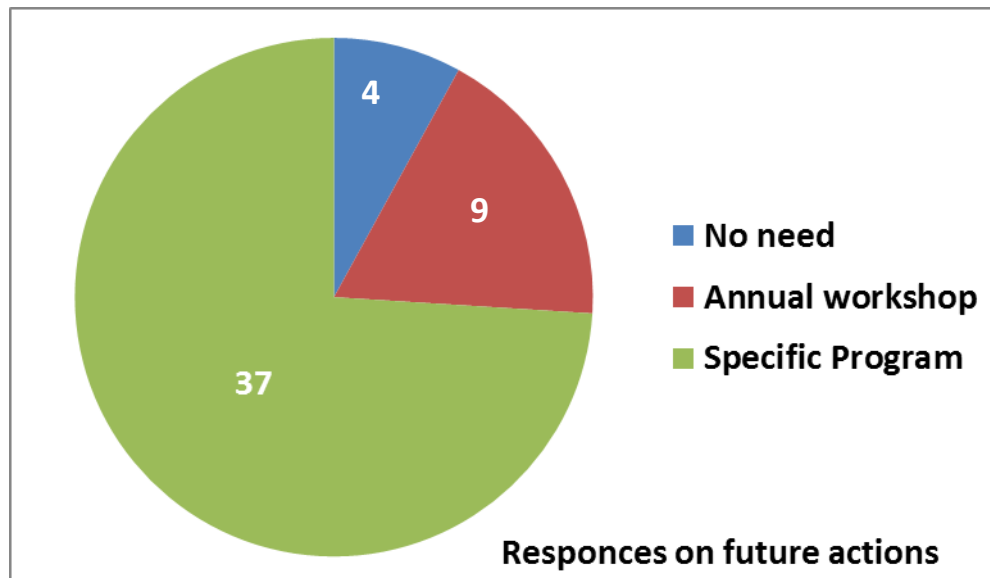
Only 4 of the responders found that there was no need to take any new actions. Nine responders found that it would be sufficient to have a similar workshop repeated on an annual basis¹. The majority of the responders, 37 (82 %) are of the opinion that a dedicated program or structure should be established between the two sides in order to facilitate closer and more effective cooperation.

In addition to the above, 31 responders (69%) out of the 37 who marked point "Q3.c" completed also point "Q3.d" of the WAF providing their own suggestions based on their individual experiences with international cooperation and needs for their work. These are given in Annex II.

¹ Note: several of the responders who marked point "Q3.b" also marked point "Q3.c".

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Discussion

From all the above analysis practically all responders found that this event was valuable for their work, their company or their organization. Similarly all but one found this event to be a very valuable opportunity to network with research and technology developers from the other zone.

Once again, a vast majority of the responders mentioned on the form that it would be valuable for their work if there could be a structure or a program that could allow closer collaboration in view of joint R&D, demo and 1st of a kind industrial scale up projects. As well, most of the attendees agreed that such a workshop should be repeated on a yearly basis.

Other specific suggestions and recommendations that the participants reported on the form are given in Annex II.

An analysis of the specific suggestions and recommendations strongly indicates for 4 particular actions:

- The organisation of similar EU-Canada workshop on an annual basis,
- The establishment of a EU-Canada network amongst researchers and technology developers,
- The organisation for the exchange of students between Universities including financial support,
- The setting up of a dedicated programme; such as Joint Call under Horizon 2020 or other programme, with funding from both sides.

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ANNEX I Workshop Appreciation Form

Please cross out one of the two: I represent a Canadian organisation / I represent an EU organisation

1. Did you find your participation in this workshop valuable for your work/company/organization?

YES

NO

2. Did you find your participation in this workshop valuable in networking with research and technology developers from the other side?

YES

NO

3. Which of the following represents your position following this workshop in view of future actions

- a. I am happy with the actual situation, no need to take any new actions.
- b. I would like to have such workshop repeated on a yearly basis. It would be sufficient for my work/company/organization.
- c. I would like a program or a structure that could facilitate closer cooperation in view of joint projects in R&D, demo and 1st of a kind in addition to taking such annual meetings
- d. I would like to suggest the following:



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Annex II

Suggestions by the workshop participants

Q3. d. I would like to suggest the following:

1. Canada needs to find a way of being and “adopted” member of the EU “innovation” program such as COST, Madame Curie, etc., with groups such as NSERC or Industry Canada setting up the funding for Canadian participation, based on Canada’s population. This type of meeting could be repeated in Ottawa or other regions of Canada, such as BC, to demonstrate aspects such as Canada’s certified biomass production potential, such as pellet production.
2. Specific and dedicated funding from Canadian funding agencies to support the collaboration.
3. Canada and the EU have much to gain from working one with the other. Culturally we are closer and our approach of doing R&D is to a certain extent very comparable. Our expertise is very complementary and the workshop showed that there are opportunities both for Canadian and European companies alike in the other zone. Thus I think that this workshop should be used as a basis to establish a long term programme between EU and Canada, since a lot of industries are linked to all researchers in the field of Biofuels, investing in R&D and international collaboration could only mean that we still generate new opportunities, new innovations and eventually and new wealth. Even if it starts with academia, knowledge is the bases on which technologies are constructed.
4. Smaller dedicated work groups on specific subjects as: feedstock procurement, policies harmonisation, project financing & government support etc.
5. As an airline we have strong international collaboration with biofuel strategy and agenda. Obviously R&D and information exchange and collaboration are desirable.
6. Definitively c. One proposal was to have a Task Force that would analyse and outline the “winning conditions” for the development of the bioeconomy: to be considered. Contact EU Forest Technology Platform to integrate in the thinking the strategy they are proposing. Find in Canada a way to finance what would be similar to EU COST actions/workshop. Workshop could also become an annual event considering above (COST-type).
7. I would think that C could be valuable. The meeting could have benefitted from an overview of the policy/state of commercialization in each region as a number of the questions were related to this.
8. BFN representatives should work with the Canadian government officials to try and find ways organizationally, and financially to work better with EU institutions in this sector.

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9. I would like to suggest, as a minimum, a seed program which can catalyse possible Canada-EU relationships. This could consist of a series of 50 grants of \$ 50,000 each, contributed 50-50 by Canada and the EU, and accessible on a competitive basis.
10. I suggest the following actions: -there has been a lack of both a final coordination and synthesis action in order to collect and indicate different guide lines and topics for contacts among the participants; - it will be more important to discuss about strategy and tool to effectively plan for future initiatives and not to be known in details of the activities of the researchers. It would be an opportunity to invite people to constitute, after the first day of presentations, small groups oriented in a specific issue in order to give the occasion to all the participants to present their activities and discuss deeply about the strategies to effectively plan for common initiatives. These are suggestion and not a critical point of view. I have very appreciated this initiative and I hope it will be proposed again in the future. I congratulate for the organisation and timing.
11. Not just Presentations, add some real workshop activities like discussion in small Groups, forming of dedicated groups of interest
12. It was disappointing that there was no specific funding associated with future cooperation. Between both Canada and the EU, there is substantial opportunity for cooperation at a demonstration level and a 1st of a kind plant. However, most funding options discussed would only have allowed for academic exchange – not an industrial EU-Canada cooperation with support from the RTO sector. This is a major missed opportunity for both the EU and Canada. There is a clear opportunity for a Horizon2020 innovation project.
13. I believe annual meetings just to keep the participants in contact will lose the interest of participants after the 1st or the 2nd year on. Meetings involve costs that sooner or later may/will be difficult for the participants to cover, both in terms of budget availability and eligibility, all the more if they involve long distance travelling (Europeans travelling to Canada and vice-versa). My experience from a similar EU-Canada initiative that involved 3 annual workshops (2008 in Canada/Toronto, 2009 in Europe/Pisa and 2010 in Canada/Saskatoon) showed that only presenting successful projects here and there without putting on the table concrete topic areas and proposals for further collaboration cannot lead to an efficient, profitable and long-term cooperation. Organise meetings in times and intervals coinciding the discussions for the preparation of future research frameworks both in Europe and Canada. That way the participants of this EU-Canada ‘structure’ or ‘initiative’ or ‘platform’ -whatever the name might be- would have the chance to discuss and propose in the launch of proposals concrete topic areas of mutual interest for joint projects in R&D, demo and 1st of a kind, according to the general research agendas of the EC and Canada at the time. Discussions would involve potential proposals, consortia, funding schemes, etc. in order to come up with successful and profitable projects for both sides. Taking into account that such research frameworks usually cover long periods (~ 4 years) and as in H2020 the launch of proposals is every 2 years, such meetings could be held every 2 years. Organise workshops at intermediate intervals, in between the meetings, with invited speakers/ experts/coordinators to discuss on the progress of successful projects, new developments, define new areas of collaboration, research ideas and

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activities, successful consortia, etc, that would serve as basis for the following launch of proposals, and so on.

14. A workshop needs to represent the relevant players at the table, involving those having already working collaborations in place! On day one the European parties have shown a state of the art which was not the real state of the art, unfortunately! Especially the liquefaction of biomass (wood) and the use of the oil as heating fuel is something the Canadians dealt with over the last 20 years and the market failed. Real innovation is necessary and that is how we were able to position us in Canada.
15. The collaboration between EU & Canada could create very positive impacts on both sides, for the academic as well the industrial component. A two-step strategy could be the most effective approach: the creation of a network to exchange information and "better know each other", as asked by various delegates during the WS in Brussels, to define priorities and opportunities for cooperation, that could be the content of one or more joint initiatives/programmes.
16. Indeed, I would like to see a follow up. Hopefully a network can be created with some funding for traveling & lodging costs. Even better would be a joint research programme under a single umbrella but with various working groups. There is definitely a good basis for such. But it would require significant funds. I have talked to some colleagues on how to arrange a direct collaboration (sharing of students).
17. If possible, a network of a few central actors from both sides should be set-up with the objective of identifying / suggesting concrete actions for improved collaborations and possible modes of financing these actions. These could be either through existing channels or possibly suggested new ones. Most likely, the simplest way forward would be encourage Canadian partners into H2020, but that would likely require a new source of matching Canadian funding.
18. Annual meetings may be a bit ambitious, as R&D cycles are generally longer. Also suggest to keep it to a day/evening.
19. IEA Bioenergy is already an existing vehicle for international cooperation, and many of the topics discussed at the workshop (biomass potentials, gasification, trade, biofuels, waste) are already prominently covered by the various tasks. So rather than setting a new program/structure and perhaps linking Biofuelnet to it would be an important step. If this cannot be realized, I think regular workshops could be beneficial, although I wonder how much news there would be to present/discuss every 12 months. Every 18 or 24 months might be a more suitable frequency.
20. Add sessions related to climate change policies and LCA analyses.
21. The funding scheme is the vital point for any collaboration. Currently there is no reliable bilateral fund available between Canada and Europe. I suggest creating a bilateral funding scheme to solve this problem.

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22. Programmes making available high impact EU-Canada infrastructures under the same thematic umbrella which can be used by researchers outside and inside the project to carry out researches at any relevant scale. Funding EU-Canada dedicated networks or the IEA-bioenergy existing tasks for the development of explorative joint programmes of common interest.
23. Point c could be added by a kind of innovation forums / brokerage events on specific topics that have been discussed during the workshop.
24. For my company it is important to see if Canada can be a good exploitation country for our technologies that are already at a high TRL value: This means a) to check market dimension, biomass costs, overall exploitation potential, b) to understand facilitating policies (if existing), and c) to find potential business partners.
25. Organise exchange programmes for university students.
26. I would appreciate if I could get more information about such Workshops in advance.
27. My field is regional – global emissions to air. This involves both GHG and air pollutants. I believe tackling these issues benefits greatly from joint and shared approaches. This results in more consistent advices for policy makers in support of (global) sustainability. I have worked with Environment Canada on emission inventories and use of satellite data to identify point sources but we were never able to make it more structural. I would be very interested in opportunities to join forces and have a shared research programme.
28. The double-dual format of Canadian-EU and Research-Industry split across four presentations per sessions was particularly interesting. Immediately put in place funding for transportation of materials/logistics/travel and for infrastructure to facilitate some level of informed in-kind exchanges. This could be done via an information tool restricted to members of the proposed EU-CA network that enables parties to present their organisation and to specify both needs and what they can offer.
29. The meeting did not end with something concrete like what are the next steps. I miss that.
30. Less people in panels (no more than 3) to keep the discussion lively and dynamic. Bit more time for networking (maybe less presentations or shorter presentations). Overall the set-up was very good.
31. I see great potential in the research given the great availability of feedstock (Canada) and technological development (both Canada and EU). I suggest to start with simple and efficient cooperation programs on the research side (e.g., Cost action) or even between Universities (existing programs) in order to enhance – where already present – or begin new initiatives. I consider a good option and opportunity for universities to try to organize their experimental facilities in a transnational network (e.g., BRISK) to create an “extended lab”. This would facilitate the coordination of the research activities, minimizing the overlapping and maximizing the synergies.