

Brussels, 13 March 2015.

## **The case of Finland: a new way towards the development of a bio-based strategy.**

Today, a delegation of the European Commission chaired by Mr Waldemar Kütt, head of Unit Bio-based products and processing, together with Mr Barend Verachtert, Interim Executive Director of the BBI JU, have met representatives of the Finnish Government.

In June 2014 the Finnish Ministry of Employment and the Economy launched an international competition as part of the bioeconomy strategy to expedite the commercialisation of bioeconomy innovations and the emergence of new biorefineries in Finland.

Spinnova Ltd. has won the international biorefinery competition. It is a small medium company developing yarn thread technology which makes it possible to spin yarn directly from wood fibre. Two more proposals were considered: Biovakka Suomi and Kemijärvi.

Biovakka Suomi combines the production of biogas, nutrients, and transport fuel in an innovative manner, and is an excellent practical example of bioeconomy and circular economy, while Kemijärvi combines a new way of using wood to deliver added-value in biomaterials and biochemical.

Barend Verachtert welcomed the Finnish approach to facilitate new types of biorefinery and also stated "This is a good example on how to encourage SMEs investing into this sector and producing novel bio-products".

For more information: <http://ilbioeconomista.com/2015/03/05/finnish-bioeconomy-takes-another-step-forward/>

