



## UEAA NEWSLETTER

2026, No. 2

Bucharest, February, 2026

---

### LATEST NEWS

---

#### **The New EU Bioeconomy Strategy: Strengthening Europe's Resilience and Competitiveness**

In November 2025, the European Commission adopted a new Strategic Framework for a Competitive and Sustainable EU Bioeconomy.

This strategy differs from the strategies behind recent legislative acts affecting forestry in Europe, as it places greater emphasis on the importance of competitiveness, market scale-up, resilience, and innovation. It outlines the economic values of the bioeconomy, which already contributes €2.7 trillion in value and provides over 17 million jobs across the EU—nearly 8% of total employment. Over the past decade, bioeconomy sectors (forests and agriculture, as well as fisheries and aquaculture, and related value chains including food and energy products) have grown faster than the overall economy. The new strategy aims to boost innovation, enhance competitiveness, and reduce reliance on fossil-based materials by harnessing Europe's biological resources. It seeks to accelerate the development of bio-based materials, biomanufacturing, and circular value chains.

#### *Key Priorities of the New EU Bioeconomy Strategy*

Core priorities include:

- Scaling up innovation and investment

The Commission aims at shortening the path from research to market by introducing faster, clearer approval procedures and mobilizing public–private investment. A more

predictable regulatory environment will help SMEs and innovators bring new sustainable materials and biotechnologies to scale.

- Creating strong markets for bio-based solutions

To stimulate demand, the strategy proposes EU-wide targets, standards, and procurement tools for bio-based content. A new Bio-based Europe Alliance will pool industry purchasing power and accelerate market uptake.

- Ensuring the supply of sustainable biomass for use

The strategy emphasizes climate-smart sourcing, soil and biodiversity protection, and efficient use of residues and secondary biomass streams. Incentives will reward farmers and forest owners who contribute to carbon sequestration and sustainable land management.

- Strengthening Europe's global position

The EU intends to build new international partnerships, diversify biomass supply chains, and consolidate Europe's role as a leader in global bio-based markets.

#### *A vision for 2040*

The strategy presents a vision of the European Bioeconomy in 2040, according to which bio-based materials and products are widely deployed in the EU, Europe meets most of its biomass needs through sustainable domestic production, and acts as a leading global partner and exporter of sustainable bio-based technologies, materials, and know-how.

What measures are suggested?

The measures suggested range from voluntary alliances, knowledge centers, and platforms for the exchange of best practices to guidelines and revised legislation, e.g., standardization under the Construction Products Regulation and certification methodologies for long-lasting carbon storage in buildings, as a means to promote wooden materials in construction. EU public procurement legislation will be revised in order to develop markets for bio-based materials.

What legal status does the strategy have?

The strategy in itself is not a legally binding document, but gives important policy directions. The EU Council of Ministers will react to the strategy by adopting conclusions. These are to be adopted by unanimity but are not legally binding.

They are, nevertheless, of some importance in guiding the commission in the coming years when they will propose legislation as indicated in the strategy.

The European Parliament will also express its views.

*The perspective of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA)*

KSLA has actively followed the development of the new Strategy and participated in the Commission's public consultations.

KSLA welcomes the renewed focus on bioeconomy and highlights, i.a., the need for:

- A coherent and innovation-friendly regulatory framework, e.g., by coordinated revisions of the Renewable Energy Directive III, the Energy Taxation Directive, State Aid, LULUCF (part of the climate package), and the Nature Restoration Law.
- Stronger value chains, including better fibre recycling, efficient use of lignin, and development of high-value products.
- More resources for innovation and research on resource efficiency, food and energy security, and biomass processing.
- Skilled and empowered rural communities by, i.a., stronger regional clusters linking industry, academia, and public actors.
- More support to bioenergy, which is central to Sweden's energy security, with biogas, developed biofuels, and biorefineries as key components.

KSLA will continue to follow the initiatives emanating from the strategy and their implementation.

Prepared by: Kerstin Niblaeus, Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry

Editors in chief: Ioan Jelev, President of UEAA, Nazim Gruda, Vice-president of UEAA