



**BRILIAN**  
Circular Future for Rural Areas

# Policy alignment: toward a coherent and supportive framework

Speakers: CIRCE, European Bioeconomy Bureau  
Coordination: BIOEAST HUB CZ

Webinar 23.01.2025



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# AGENDA



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10:00 – 10:05

**BIOEAST HUB CZ - Anastasia Perouli**

Welcome – House keeping rules

10:05 – 10:15

**CIRCE - Maider Gomez**

Intro to BRILIAN

10:15 – 10:45

**EBB - Roberto Ferrigno**

Policy alignment: toward a coherent and supportive framework

10:45 – 11:15

**BIOEAST HUB CZ - Anastasia Perouli**

Discussion & Q&A

11:15 – 11:30

**BIOEAST HUB CZ - Anastasia Perouli**

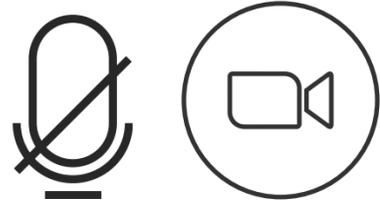
Feedback session



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**WELCOME - HOUSEKEEPING RULES**

# WELCOME - HOUSEKEEPING RULES



## Audio & Video:

Please keep your microphone muted unless invited to speak.  
You may choose to keep your camera on or off, but turning it on can create a more interactive atmosphere.



## Chat & Q&A:

Use the chat box to share comments, engage with other participants and ask your questions.



## Time Management:

We aim to end on time, so we appreciate your cooperation in staying focused and concise during discussions.



## Recording:

This session will be recorded and shared afterward. If you prefer not to appear in the recording, please keep your video off and refrain from speaking directly.



## Respectful Engagement:

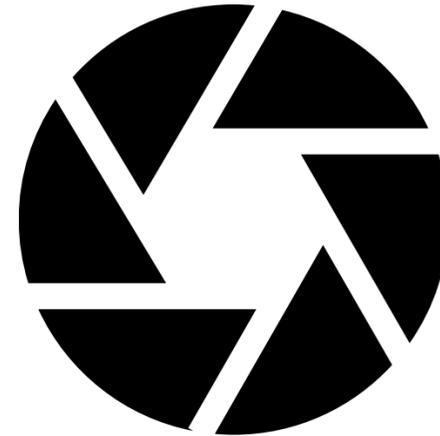
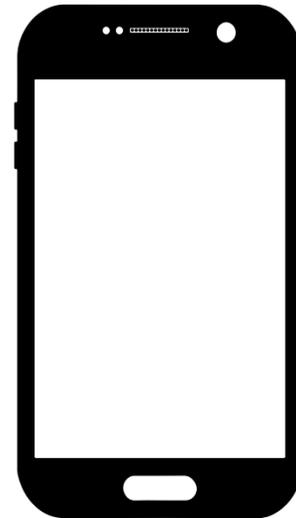
Use the “raise the hand” button to intervene.  
Be courteous and respectful in your interactions. Inappropriate behavior or language will not be tolerated.



## Smartphone ready:

We will be using Mentimeter today, so please have your smartphones ready.

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# BRILIAN

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## INTRO TO BRILIAN



Maidier Gómez  
[mgomez@fcirce.es](mailto:mgomez@fcirce.es)



BRILIAN aims to support the adoption of **sustainable and cooperative business models in rural areas** in three pilots located in Italy, Spain and Denmark.



Consortium of **13 partners** led by CIRCE (Spain).



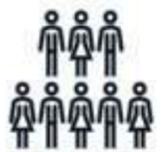
Feedstocks: cardoon, safflower, and sunflower (in **Italy**), potato peel (in **Spain**), and rapeseed (in **Denmark**) as feedstock.



The sustainable business models will encompass a wide range of **high-value-added bio-products**, such as bioplastics, biolubricants, vegan proteins, bioadhesives, bioherbicides, products for animal feed or the cosmetic sector.



BRILIAN will minimise environmental negative potentials of bioeconomy by setting-up and optimising **10 bio-based value chains**.



Increase in the products **portfolio of primary production by valorising waste** and by-products will enable primary producers to diversify their income while reducing risk, with associated new jobs creation.

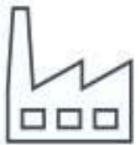
Project lead: CIRCE (Spain)



3 RTOs



3 SMEs



3 Large Companies



4 Clusters & Associations



- Currently, **rural areas cover approximately 80% of the European Union's territory**, containing 30% of its population (137 million people). Therefore, they play a key role in improving sustainable bio-based value chains through various lines of action, such as sustainable food and raw materials, renewable energies, reduced fossil fuel dependence, and biodiversity preservation.
- Motivation:
  - Biobased value chains become crucial to enable the EU to cope with upcoming challenges (crisis of raw materials supply, climate change, etc.).
  - Ensure a just transition and a fair share of benefits all along the new biobased value.
  - Fully aligned with the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) while addressing also Green Deal and Bioeconomy Strategy objectives.

- Framework/Opportunity:
  - Necessities of raw material for bio-commodities
  - Interesting properties for several markets
  
- BRILIAN will implement a multi-actor approach for the validation of a group of **Actions for the Bio Innovation**, both at macro and micro level.
  - a) Forging robust rural bio-communities
  - b) Achieving circularity and sustainability
  - c) Integration of short supply chains
  - d) Production of value-added bioproducts

## ■ CHALLENGES

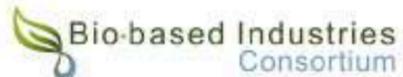
- Demonstrate the sustainable supply of bio-based feedstock
- Set effective and robust environmental sustainability and circularity criteria for bio-based systems
- Political and legal barriers related with waste valorisation in agriculture
- Economic feasibility of biobased value chains
- Social issues: consumers acceptance, workforce skills, etc.
- TRL improvement for certain technologies (validation at industrial scale)
- Promotion of schemes enabling a decrease of the environmental impact

# THANK YOU!!!



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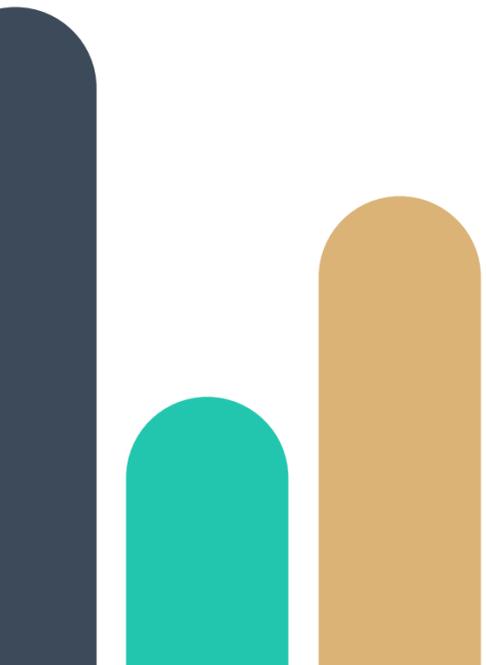


## POLICY ALIGNMENT: TOWARD A COHERENT AND SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORK



European  
Bioeconomy  
Bureau

Roberto Ferrigno - EBB  
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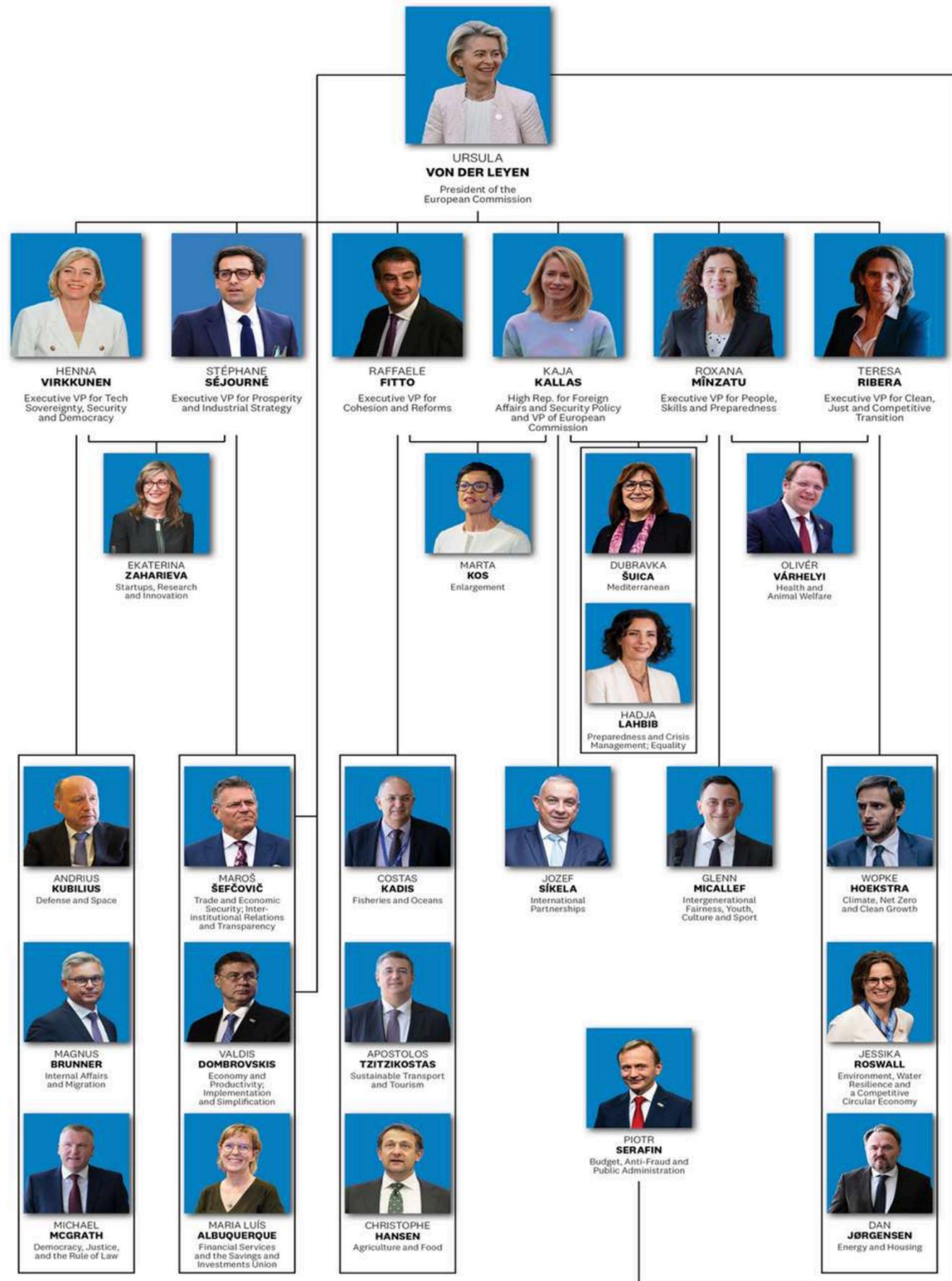
# ABOUT EBB – EUROPEAN BIOECONOMY BUREAU

The European Bioeconomy Bureau (EBB) is a Non Governmental Organisation registered in Belgium (an ASBL) founded by David Newman and Roberto Ferrigno, that aims aim to support those promoting the bioeconomy in Europe through research leading to technological change as well as policy instruments which lead to market and social change.

We believe the bioeconomy can be an effective tool to reducing the impact of certain industrial processes and become an economically viable pathway to “doing more with less”. Our Mission is for the advancement of the European Economy, the regeneration of our Environment, the sustainability of our Agriculture, the development of Scientific Research and the Health of our Citizens.



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# THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

# PRESIDENT VON DER LEYEN ESTABLISHES FOURTEEN PROJECT GROUPS TO DELIVER ON POLITICAL PRIORITIES



**Clean Industrial Deal** is jointly chaired by the Executive Vice-President for Clean, Just and Competitive Transition, Teresa Ribera, the Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy, Stéphane Séjourné, and the Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth, Wopke Hoekstra.

**Vision for Agriculture and Food** is chaired by the Commissioner for Agriculture and Food, Christophe Hansen.

**Water Resilience** is chaired by the Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy, Jessika Roswall.



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**Defence Union** is chaired by the Commissioner for Defence and Space, Andrius Kubilius.

**European Savings and Investments Union** is chaired by the Commissioner for Financial Services and the Savings and Investments Union, Maria Luís Albuquerque.



**Skills, Jobs and Social Rights** is chaired by the Executive Vice-President for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness, Roxana Mînzatu.

**Economic Security** is chaired by the Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, Maroš Šefčovič.



**Preparedness Union** is chaired by the Commissioner for Equality; Preparedness and Crisis Management, Hadja Lahbib.

**External Action** is chaired by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy /Vice-President, Kaja Kallas.



**European Internal Security** is chaired by the Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration, Magnus Brunner.

**Affordable Housing** is chaired by the Commissioner for Energy and Housing, Dan Jørgensen.

**Startups and Scaleups** is chaired by the Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation, Ekaterina Zaharieva.

**European Democracy Shield** is chaired by the Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection, Michael McGrath.



**Artificial Intelligence** is chaired by the Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy, Henna Virkkunen.

# CLEAN INDUSTRIAL DEAL

The Project Group shall coordinate the work to present the Clean Industrial Deal in the first 100 days of the mandate to set out how to accelerate the decarbonisation of EU industry while strengthening its competitiveness. It shall maintain this coordination throughout the preparations of related deliverables, such as the industrial decarbonisation accelerator act, new State aid framework, clean trade and investment partnerships, revision of public procurement rules, action plan for affordable energy, circular economy act, strengthening grid infrastructure, sustainable transport investment plan and measures against carbon leakage.

The Project Group shall strengthen coherence with other policies that enable the achievement of the Clean Industrial Deal objectives, notably research, investment, access to materials and energy, including the climate and energy targets, lead markets for innovative clean products, circular business operations and activities, quality jobs, global level playing field, and a simple and fast regulatory framework.

# VISION FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

The Project Group shall coordinate the work **to present in the first 100 days the Vision for Agriculture and Food** to ensure the long-term competitiveness, resilience and sustainability of the farming and food sector, while ensuring safety and affordability of food.

It shall ensure that the vision draws on the report of the Strategic Dialogue on the future of EU Agriculture as well as on the Draghi report, the Letta report and the Niinistö report. The Project Group will coordinate the work **to ensure that farmers have a fair and sufficient income and improve farmers' position in the value chain.** It shall reinforce investment and innovation in farming and food systems.



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# WATER RESILIENCE

The Project Group shall support the preparation of the European Water Resilience Strategy to strengthen water security and of its related deliverables, also considering its indispensable role for economic competitiveness, food and energy security, human health and environment.

It shall develop an **integrated and innovative approach** for management of water resources to ensure water security, resilience, sustainability and innovation through development and deployment of water-related technologies. This should help enhance the competitive innovative edge of the EU's water industry, develop clean tech, take a circular economy approach and include proposals to digitalise water management, cycles and utilities.

The Project Group shall ensure proper articulation with the European Climate Adaptation Plan, the European Civil Defence Mechanism, the European Ocean Pact and the new **Vision for Agriculture and Food**. It shall develop a European dimension to water policies including facilitating public and private investment in technology and cross-border water infrastructure.

The Project Group shall promote **a cohesive approach to water management**, tailored to the specific conditions of each Member State.

# EVOLVING EUROPEAN POLICY LANDSCAPE AND ITS IMPACT ON RURAL COMMUNITIES

Launched in January 2024, the **Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture** brought together 29 major stakeholders from the European agri-food sectors, civil society, rural communities and academia to reach a common understanding and vision for the future of EU's farming and food systems.

Titled “**A shared prospect for farming and food in Europe**”, the final report presents an assessment of challenges and opportunities, followed by a set of recommendations. These suggestions will guide the work of the European Commission when shaping its Vision for Agriculture and Food, to be delivered in the first 100 days of President von der Leyen's second mandate.



# A SHARED PROSPECT FOR FARMING AND FOOD IN EUROPE: RECOMMENDATIONS



**Working together for a sustainable, resilient and competitive future:** there needs to adapt the CAP in the context of the ongoing transition towards more sustainable and competitive food systems, strengthening farmers' position in the food value chain, access to finance, and the role of trade and international standards.

**Advancing towards sustainable agri-food systems:** supporting and promoting sustainable farming practices, including for livestock farming, and advocate for increased awareness about animal welfare and empowerment of consumers to choose sustainable and balanced diets



# A SHARED PROSPECT FOR FARMING AND FOOD IN EUROPE: RECOMMENDATIONS



**Promoting transformative resilience:** in the face of growing environmental, climate, geopolitical and economic risks, the report outlines the need to strengthen risk management tools and crisis management as well as to better preserve and manage farmland, promote water-resilient agriculture, and develop innovative plant breeding approaches.

**Building an attractive and diverse sector:** the importance of vibrant rural areas and agri-food systems, including the need to protect workers.

Better access to and use of knowledge and innovation: access to knowledge and skills must be facilitated, and that digitalisation is an opportunity.



# CONTRADICTIONS IN POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

If used efficiently and produced sustainably, biomass can play an important role in the transition of the EU economy towards climate neutrality, while simultaneously contributing to other societal objectives.

However, the **EU's current policy framework does not yet provide coherent and long-term incentives to stimulate a bioeconomy based on an efficient use of biomass.** The review of the Bioeconomy Strategy, planned for 2026, provides an opportunity to rectify this.



# EMERGING BIOECONOMY STRATEGY AND BIOMASS UTILIZATION DILEMMAS

The use of biomass for bioenergy and materials in the EU has increased by roughly 16% between 2010 and 2020, bioenergy being accountable for 80% of this growth (JRC 2022).

Other projections estimate increases in biomass demand for bioenergy and bio-based materials to range between 50% and 150% by 2050 compared to today (EEA 2023).

Incentives related to the production, extraction and use of land-based biomass are governed by a wide range of EU policies, including on energy, climate, environmental and agriculture. Taken together, **the incentives provided by these policies are not coherent with an optimal use of biomass for a balanced contribution to sustainability objectives.**



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# EMERGING BIOECONOMY STRATEGY AND BIOMASS UTILIZATION DILEMMAS

**The policy incentives for bioenergy are not in line with the most climate and land-efficient uses of biomass or with increasing carbon removals.** These incentives stand in the way of achieving the goal to generate at least 20% of the carbon used in chemicals and plastics from non-fossil sources by 2030, as stated in the Commission Communication on Sustainable Carbon Cycles (2021).

A recent revision of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED III) addresses sustainability safeguards, such as introducing a cascading principle for the sustainable use of woody biomass and a more differentiated approach towards biofuels in transportation. However, the **directive continues to incentivise the deployment of bioenergy**. This especially in conjunction with the zero-rating rule under the EU Emissions Trading System (EU-ETS), which counts burning biomass as carbon neutral without distinguishing between different forms of biomass. This situation also stands in tension with the carbon removals target established for the LULUCF sector by 2030.



# STRUCTURAL ISSUES IMPACTING EU AGRICULTURE AND THE RURAL BIOECONOMY

European agriculture is facing a triple performance challenge:

**Regaining economic competitiveness**, which has declined for over two decades, and addressing the crisis of new farm business

**Achieving an ecological transition** that benefits both agriculture and European society as a whole

**Addressing the social challenge**, by providing a balanced, high-quality diet for all Europeans, but also enhancing the value of agricultural jobs and the strong link between farming activities and the dynamics of rural areas.



# POLICY GAPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The EU multi-annual budget and the CAP budget should at the very least be re-indexed to inflation.

**Establish a robust European risk and crisis management strategy** through a crisis reserve commensurate with the issues at stake and a truly common approach at European level to the challenges of farm resilience;

**Revamping environmental initiatives** (input management, well-being) as part of a systematic approach combining economic and environmental performance;

**Developing an incentive-based approach to climate/agricultural carbon policy** (sequestration and reduction of emissions, incentive-based mechanisms rather than an initial polluter-pays principle that hinder all progress).

**Moving forward decisively in the bioeconomy**, exploiting the potential of biorefineries (European sovereignty in the bioeconomy), but also of all the opportunities that agriculture offers to decarbonise the rest of the economy (construction, textiles, chemicals, energy, etc.). These new demands can be a driving force for the sector's economic health and its positive contribution to address the environmental challenges of the EU economy, in addition to providing quality food.



# SUGGESTIONS FOR AN EFFICIENT REVISION OF THE BIOECONOMY STRATEGY

The 2018 bioeconomy action plan contains 14 concrete actions.

The 2022 Progress Report concluded:

- Overall implementation of the EU Bioeconomy Action Plan is well on track and has already contributed to the objectives of the European Green Deal.
- Strongest progress has been made in developing bio-based solutions through R&I and increasing public and private investments.
- Improved cooperation with Member States and demonstration projects have laid the basis for regional and national bioeconomy deployments, with a focus on less developed countries.
- Understanding of ecological limits of the bioeconomy has improved. However, gaps remain on how to better manage biosphere use to meet environmental and economic requirements in a climate neutral Europe, and how to promote more sustainable consumption patterns to guarantee environmental integrity.



# SUGGESTIONS FOR AN EFFICIENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIOECONOMY ACTION PLAN

There is no need to re-invent the wheel.

Further efforts need to be made at EU policy level on:

- developing and deploying sustainable biobased solutions in packaging, constructions, textiles, cars;
- launch a strategic deployment agenda for sustainable food and farming systems, forestry and biobased products;
- facilitate the deployment of new sustainable biorefineries through the CAP;
- launch pilot actions for the deployment of bioeconomies in rural, coastal and urban areas;
- promote education, training and skills across the bioeconomy;



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**DISCUSSION & Q&A**

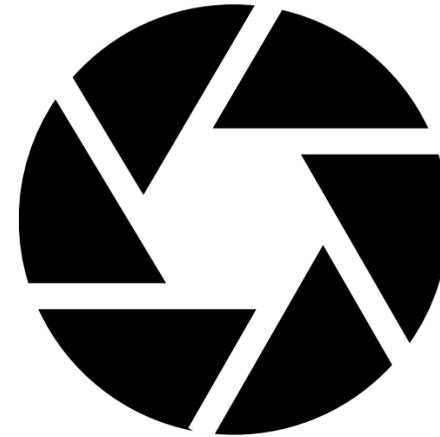
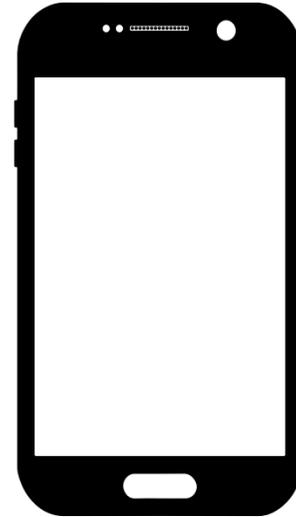


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## HOW TO ENGAGE



**Next: 27.02.2025**

**Public and Private Funding  
Instruments: Tailored Strategies  
for Impact**

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**Join the Advisory Board of Farmers**

<https://brilian.eu/advisory-board-of-farmers/>

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