

This is a series of news bulletins issued by EBB containing policy updates related to the bioeconomy.

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## ECOS - Ensuring alignment between bio-based plastics policy and EU circular economy objectives for packaging

Unsurprisingly, [ECOS](#) - the NGO advocating for environmentally friendly technical standards, policies and laws - strongly criticizes [the study published by NOVA Institute](#) in May 2026 assessing that bio-based feedstocks are critical to supplement recycling, as the EU PPWR moves to phase out fossil carbon in packaging. Nova's analysis supports establishing binder targets for bio-based content and equating bio-based carbon with recycled content to meet 2030–2040.

In a [letter sent to DG Environment](#) on 10 June, ECOS and members of the Rethink Plastic Alliance and supporting organisations are calling on the European Commission to critically reassess the study, as part of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation, which does not provide a sufficiently balanced basis for future policy development.

Pretty interesting the letter is co-signed by FERN and the Environmental Paper Network, two NGOs advocating for forests protection, and supporting the sustainable use of biomass.

Also, in early June, [Plastics Europe published a position paper](#) including recommendations to the European Commission for accelerating the use of bio-based feedstocks in plastics production as part of Europe's transition toward a climate-neutral, circular, and competitive economy.

Plastics Europe calls on the Commission to:

- Propose separate targets for recycled and bio-based plastics.
- Recognize both bio-based and bio-attributed plastics.
- Harmonize sustainability rules under the Renewable Energy Directive.

The paper argues that bio-based feedstocks should complement - not replace - recycled plastics and other circular feedstocks. It calls for supportive legislation, market incentives, harmonized sustainability criteria, and improved carbon accounting to enable investment and scale-up of bio-based plastics.

This policy advocacy document is aimed at shaping upcoming EU legislation (such as the Circular Economy Act, Biotech Act, and sector-specific regulations). It seeks to establish regulatory certainty and market mechanisms that will encourage investment in bio-based plastics while maintaining recycled plastics as an equally important pillar of the transition.



## Commission steps up action on Europe's bioeconomy

[The European Commission has announced a new package of actions to accelerate the implementation of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy](#), aiming to strengthen competitiveness, resilience, and the transition towards a more circular and less fossil-dependent economy. This includes the Bio-based Europe Alliance (BEA) to support market scale-up, the Bioeconomy Investment Deployment Group (BIDG) to improve access to finance, and the Expert Group on Bioeconomy to support implementation by Member States. A new [call for expression of interest](#) to participate in the BEA was launched. Any expression of interest should be submitted by 31 July through the confirmation of [interest form](#) and sent to [ENV-BIOECONOMY-STRATEGY@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ENV-BIOECONOMY-STRATEGY@ec.europa.eu).

## Commission Notice on Packaging and Packaging Waste

The Commission Notice on Packaging and Packaging Waste offers guidance on the use of compostable plastic packaging, recommending its application only where it delivers clear environmental or human health benefits. The document highlights the role of compostable packaging in facilitating the collection and disposal of bio-waste, particularly for products where separating content from packaging is complex. Member States are granted flexibility to determine the appropriate use of compostable packaging for specific applications, with the aim of reducing consumer confusion and ensure recyclability. The notice also clarifies that compliance with industrial composting standards does not guarantee decomposition.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) Objectives

The ECF's focus on decarbonisation includes fostering renewable energy uptake, improving energy efficiency, and promoting innovative nature-based business models. Circular approaches to materials, products, and manufacturing are regarded as essential for enhancing resource productivity and generating job opportunities. In addition, the ECF seeks to reinforce the EU's global leadership in digital technologies by advancing digital solutions and fostering skills development.

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## EESC: Circular Economy Act must make Europe more resilient, competitive and independent

The European Commission Executive Vice-President Teresa Ribera and EESC members highlight the strategic importance of the Circular Economy Act for Europe's future. Circularity should be central to Europe's competitiveness, resilience, and independence agendas. The Act aims to accelerate the shift to a circular economy for a more sustainable and autonomous Europe.

Ms Teresa Ribera highlighted the role of the circular economy and said that: *"The circular economy is essential for strengthening Europe's resilience and competitiveness while reducing our dependence on imported resources and ensuring our strategic autonomy. The transition is not something that happens to Europe. The transition is the way in which Europe actively shapes its own future"*. Rapporteur Cillian Lohan called for a more systemic approach to circularity: *"The Circular Economy Act should strengthen the EU's competitiveness and resilience by accelerating the shift from a linear – take-make-waste – economy to a circular one. This is essential not only for people's well-being and prosperity, but also for our planet. In concrete terms, we propose that the Act strengthens European markets for secondary raw materials and integrates a resource-use perspective into all EU policies. Circularity must become a cross-cutting principle"*.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## Eurochambres' input for the Irish Presidency regarding the Circular Economy Act

Eurochambres' input for the Irish Presidency regarding the Circular Economy Act underscores the need to reduce EU dependency on imported raw materials. The key recommendations include:

- Removing internal market barriers
- Harmonising end-of-waste rules
- Incentivising circularity as a viable business model
- Ensuring proportionate rules for SMEs to safeguard the Act's effectiveness.

[FULL ARTICLE](#)



## The mid-term report on the EIB Group Strategic Roadmap 2024-2027

This mid-term report on the Group's Strategic Roadmap 2024/2027 reviews how the Group has sharpened its strategic focus to make a greater impact, aligning closely with EU priorities while increasing agility, innovation and risk-taking. Since 2024, the EIB Group has aligned its priorities with EU objectives, increased support for infrastructure, innovation, SMEs and startups, reinforced its role as the EU climate bank, and expanded investments in digitalisation, security, agriculture, the bioeconomy, and social infrastructure. The report also highlights a stronger external focus, particularly on Ukraine and neighbouring regions, alongside the launch of strategic initiatives to accelerate investment and improve operational efficiency.

[FULL REPORT](#)

## The branded clothing sector urges caution on additional feedstock requirements

The European Branded Clothing Association (EBCA) has expressed caution regarding a potential move by the European Commission to designate the textile apparel sector as a key market for boosting demand for bio-based feedstock in end products under the Biotech Act II. While recognising the role of biotechnology in industrial decarbonisation, EBCA underscores the importance of the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) as the primary framework for advancing sustainable textiles. The association also warns that any "made-in-Europe" requirements should be approached with care to avoid adverse effects on the globally integrated textile sector.

[FULL POSITION PAPER](#)



## Upcoming Events

**JUN  
25**

**Public hearing  
“Less waste, more value: Towards an EU Circular Economy Act” -  
Tuesday 23 June 2026 in Brussels**

Next Tuesday, EBB will attend the public hearing “Less waste, more value: Towards an EU Circular Economy Act”, organized by Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety. The hearing will focus on the existing legislative framework for the circular economy, the lessons learned, and potential strategies for moving forward. It will also explore ways to support innovative approaches and ensure effective implementation. This hearing will provide a unique opportunity for dialogue with eight stakeholders from civil society, academia, and industry. Participants will discuss the challenges and opportunities related to the upcoming proposal for an EU Circular Economy Act, which is expected to be presented in September 2026.

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**NOV  
19**

**Second edition of the European Bioeconomy Conference  
19 November 2026 in Brussels**

The EU Bioeconomy Conference 2026 will bring together EU policymakers, researchers, investors, and industry leaders from across Europe's bio-based sectors, including bioenergy, agrifood, textiles, pulp and paper, packaging, wood products, bioplastics, and other advanced materials. The conference will provide a platform to assess progress in implementing the EU Bioeconomy Strategy launched by the European Commission.

Key discussions will cover:

- Securing sustainable bio-resources for industrial scale-up
- Creating competitive conditions for bio-based solutions
- Scaling sectoral strengths across value chains, from agriculture and bioenergy to recycling industries and textiles
- Navigating global competitiveness and trade dynamics

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## Past Events

**JUN  
12**

**Event "Towards the CAP 2028–2034: Perspectives and priorities for Italian and European agriculture" in Rome**

On the 12th of June, EBB attended the event "Towards the CAP 2028–2034: Perspectives and priorities for Italian and European agriculture" in Rome. The event was organized by MEP Dario Nardella (S&D). Key representatives from major Italian agricultural organizations were also in attendance, including Coldiretti, Confagricoltura, and Cia. The speakers included Norbert Lins (EPP), the rapporteur for the CAP reform, Barry Cowen (Renew), the shadow rapporteur, and MEP Cristina Guarda (Greens).

The discussions focused on the future direction of European agriculture and highlighted the importance of strengthening resilience across agricultural value chains, and supporting innovation as a driver of competitiveness. Particular attention was given to the challenges facing the next generation of farmers and rural communities, such as access to land, rising land prices, and the need for affordable financing mechanisms, especially for young farmers and women entrepreneurs.

The outcomes of the study "[The Bioeconomy in the Agriculture of the Future](#)" were also presented. The study examines the bioeconomy's role in future EU agriculture, focusing on promoting farms' economic sustainability. The paper analyses policy frameworks, successful circular models, and trends in biomass valorisation to identify strategies for income diversification. Finally, it provides policy options to boost bioeconomy initiatives and strengthen value chains within the European farming sector.



## EU Soil Observatory

### June 2026 newsletter

- Upcoming EUSO Stakeholder Forum (June 25): this online event, that will take place on 25th of June, will explore the role of AI-driven technologies in achieving healthy soils by 2050.
- Soil Monitoring Law Workshops: technical webinars with the EEA on setting values for soil health indicators (water retention, compaction, salinisation, acidification, nutrients) on June 23 and July 1.
- New Policy Brief: a publication on "Unlocking the carbon farming potential via a new generation of Monitoring, Reporting, Verification (MRV) systems".
- New Dataset Release on soil biodiversity.
- EU\_ERPlot Initiative Relaunch: a renewed call for contributions to build an open-access database of soil erosion plot measurements.
- Upcoming Events: several conferences and symposia are listed, including the first Mission Soil Investment Forum (June 30, Brussels) and the ESA Symposium on EO for Soil Protection (November 4-6, Frascati).
- Funding & Opportunities: Various open calls, including for the NEMESIS Living Lab, the TRAILS4SOIL project for farmers, and 15 PhD positions in the RESCUE doctoral network.

[YOU CAN ACCESS IT HERE](#)

## EUSO Stakeholders Forum

The EUSO and EEA are organising webinars dedicated to the scientific knowledge for the monitoring framework as well as the non-binding sustainable target values (STVs) and Operational Trigger values (OTVs) of the Soil Monitoring Law.

[REGISTER HERE](#)