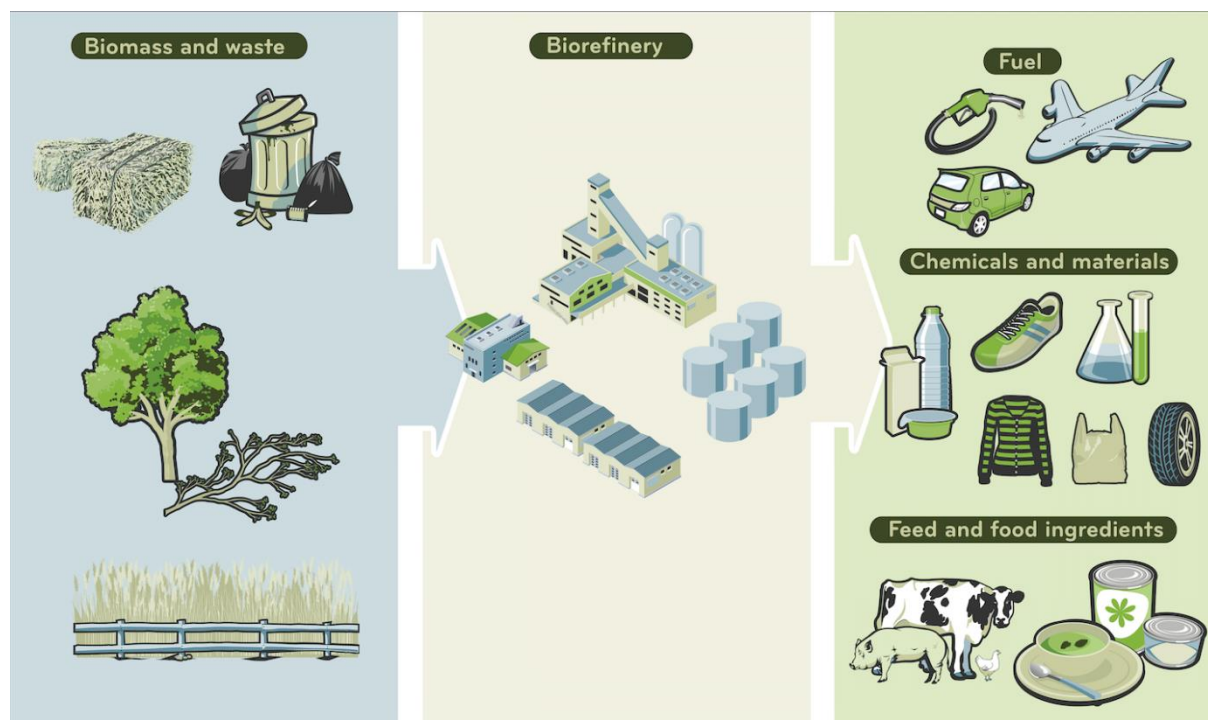




Joint call for action on the bioeconomy

The bioeconomy offers huge potential to tackle societal challenges such as resource efficiency, climate change, maintaining European competitiveness and creation of jobs.

The vision of the European Bioeconomy Alliance is for a competitive, innovative, energy secure and sustainable Europe: leading the transition towards a post-petroleum society while decoupling economic growth from resource depletion and environmental impact.



Our members are committed to support the development of the bioeconomy in Europe provided that a framework to ensure a fair, predictable and coherent basis for business to operate is guaranteed.

What is the bioeconomy?

- The bioeconomy is nothing new. It already exists but has become a policy priority in Europe. The European bioeconomy is worth nearly €2 trillion and provides more than 22 million jobs to EU citizens¹. It encompasses the sustainable production of renewable resources and their conversion into food, feed, fibers, materials, chemicals and bioenergy through efficient and/or innovative technologies. A corner stone of the bioeconomy are biorefineries that use biomass, by- and co- products and waste instead of fossil resources as their raw material.

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "Innovating for Sustainable Growth: A Bioeconomy for Europe", 13 February 2012, COM(2012)60 final.



- In the bioeconomy, land use and food security are optimized through a sustainable, resource-efficient and largely waste-free utilisation of Europe's renewable raw materials therefore contributing to a circular economy.
- The bioeconomy will play an important role in boosting Europe's competitiveness by revitalising rural areas, thus providing growth and jobs over the next decades.

How do we develop a coherent bioeconomy?

- The EU recognized that a key defining feature of the bioeconomy is its multi-sectorial nature. The EU needs to develop a more competitive, dynamic, sustainable bioeconomy through a more holistic, coherent and harmonized policy. This involves a range of policy fields including agricultural, forestry, marine, industrial, climate, environment, energy, research and innovation, and regional development.
- Creating a world leading bioeconomy will require bold political moves, clarity of long-term strategy as well as legal certainty and stable conditions for actors in the value chain.
- Europe must act now to provide solutions that will not only meet our environmental commitments but will help lay solid foundations for sustainable economic recovery and prosperity. By implementing key actions EU could ensure smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

These **actions** include:

1. Implementation of the Priority Recommendations from the Lead Market Initiative on bio-based products which focus on: access to feedstock, research, development and innovation, access to markets, public procurement and communication. This should be focused in particular on adapting the EU legislative framework to allow Member States to promote the take-up of innovative bio-based products.
2. Encourage member states to set up measures to increase agricultural and forest productivity and soil fertility sustainably and to facilitate the mobilisation and access to renewable feedstock at competitive prices notably through rural development and Horizon 2020 funds.
3. Address the barriers to fostering investment in first commercial operations, such as biorefineries in Europe. Simplify measures to enable such investments to be made in Europe through combined financing mechanisms, and reforming of State Aid Rules to enable national support. The Public Private Partnership on Biobased Industries is a first step in the right direction and should facilitate and catalyze other European and national sources of financing.
4. Engage with civil society, together with farmers, forest owners and industry, to encourage the debate on shaping a more competitive bioeconomy for Europe. Help communicate on the benefits of the bioeconomy.

Next to the already existing Bioeconomy Panel and Civil Dialogue Groups the implementation of these actions could be supported by creating a Council of European Commissioners on the Bioeconomy along with the establishment of a permanent



Commission inter-service group that could act as Sherpa for the Council of Commissioners on the Bioeconomy and by setting up of an Intergroup in the European Parliament on Bioeconomy.

Who are we?

The European Bioeconomy Alliance (EBA) is an informal alliance of leading European organisations representing sectors active in the bioeconomy.

The members of the EBA are:

BIC – Bio-based Industries Consortium

CEFS – European Association of Sugar Producers

CEPF – Confederation of European Forest Owners

CEPI – Confederation of European Paper Industries

COPA-COGECA – European Farmers and European Agri-Cooperatives

ePURE – European Renewable Ethanol Producers Association

EuropaBio – The European Association for Bioindustries

European Bioplastics – European Bioplastics Association

FEDIOL – The European Vegetable Oil and Protein Meal Industry

FTP – Forestry-based Sector Technology Platform

PFP – Primary Food Processors

Starch Europe – European Starch Industry Association