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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: A Strategic Framework for a Competitive and Sustainable EU Bioeconomy
- Revised draft Council conclusions

Delegations will find in the Annex revised draft Council conclusions on the above, prepared by the Presidency in order to take into account comments sent by delegations. The Presidency has carefully considered all comments received and puts forward a text which tries to find a balance between different approaches.

New text compared to the previous version of the draft Council conclusions (doc. 16980/1/25 REV 1) is marked in **bold and underlined**. Deleted text is marked as ~~strikethrough~~.

Delegations are kindly requested to send eventual redlines to the Presidency (mandemetriou@environment.moa.gov.cy; pkoutsoftas@environment.moa.gov.cy; NGeorgiou@environment.moa.gov.cy), with copy to the Council Secretariat (carla.santosmoore@consilium.europa.eu; ludmila.zalik@consilium.europa.eu; monica.brunetto@consilium.europa.eu; environment@consilium.europa.eu) by **Thursday, 12 February 2026 at noon** (Brussels time).

Based on those redlines, the Presidency will prepare revised Council conclusions with a view to the Working Part on the Environment meeting to be held on 20 February 2026.

A Strategic Framework for a Competitive and Sustainable EU Bioeconomy

- revised draft Council conclusions -

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING:

- The Decision on the 8th Environment Action Programme (EAP)¹ and the Communication from the Commission on the European Green Deal²,
- Its conclusions on:
 - the opportunities of the bioeconomy in the light of current challenges with special emphasis on rural areas³;
 - the updated Bioeconomy Strategy "A sustainable Bioeconomy for Europe: strengthening the connection between economy, society and the environment"⁴;
 - a call for action on life sciences for the Union's competitiveness⁵;
 - **the importance of research and innovation for the EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy**⁶;
 - the European Water Resilience Strategy⁷;
 - the New EU Forest Strategy for 2030⁸;

¹ Decision (EU) 2022/591 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 April 2022 on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2030 (OJ L 114, 12.4.2022, p. 22).

² ST 15051/19 + ADD 1.

³ ST 8406/23.

⁴ ST 14594/19.

⁵ ST 13323/25.

⁶ **ST 13357/25.**

⁷ ST 14303/25.

⁸ ST 13984/21.

- a sustainable blue economy: health, knowledge, prosperity, social equity⁹;
- **A competitive European industry driving our green, digital and resilient future**¹⁰;
- the Biodiversity Strategy: the need for urgent action¹¹;
- delivering on the EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy¹²;
- the Ocean Pact¹³.

TAKING NOTE OF WELCOMING:

- **The Communications from the Commission on:**

- the Competitiveness Compass for the EU¹⁴;
- the Clean Industrial Deal¹⁵;
- the Vision for Agriculture and Food¹⁶;
- the European Chemicals Industry Action Plan¹⁷;

- **Building the future with Nature: Boosting Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing in the EU**¹⁸.

UNDERLINING the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ~~and~~ its sustainable development goals¹⁹ **and the National Strategies for Sustainable Development.**

⁹ ST 9153/21.

¹⁰ **ST 10127/24.**

¹¹ ST 12210/20.

¹² ST 10447/18.

¹³ ST 15807/25.

¹⁴ **ST 5785/25.**

¹⁵ **ST 6515/25.**

¹⁶ **ST 6385/25.**

¹⁷ **ST 11459/25.**

¹⁸ **ST 9163/1/24 REV 1.**

¹⁹ Sustainable Development Goals: 17 Goals to Transform our World | United Nations.

WELCOMING the Commission Communication on “A Strategic Framework for a Competitive and Sustainable EU Bioeconomy”²⁰ as a timely and essential step to strengthen Europe’s competitiveness, resilience, prosperity and sustainability and RECOGNISING that the bioeconomy is a key cross-sectoral driver of sustainability, green growth, **research**, innovation and job creation, and that the primary sector **plays a key role in ensuring** sustainable biomass supply alongside food security, **food safety** and rural livelihoods, supporting sustainable development and circular production models while integrating climate, biodiversity and human **and animal** health considerations, **and** safeguarding **the** environmental quality, including the quality of water and soil **health**.

EMPHASISING **sustainable bioeconomy’s contribution to the EU’s competitiveness and open strategic autonomy and RECALLING** the strategic importance of a **competitive** and sustainable bioeconomy for achieving climate neutrality and resilience, the protection and restoration of **forests**, biodiversity, ~~and~~ ecosystems **and related ecosystems services**, zero pollution, resource efficiency, circularity, water resilience, food **and nutrition** security, **and** reducing dependence on fossil-based materials and products and imports thereof ~~as well as imports of soy protein for animal feed, in order to contribute to competitiveness and the EU's open strategic autonomy;~~ HIGHLIGHTING the importance of **an efficient implementation of existing** ~~enhancing coherence and comparability of need for harmonized sustainability criteria~~ **frameworks** for biomass and the ~~potential role of an EU-level wide certification framework system to ensure in~~ supporting fair competition for biobased products.

WELCOMING the vision for a sustainable bioeconomy by 2040 and the focus on scaling innovation and investments; building lead markets for bio-based materials, products and technologies; and ensuring sustainable biomass supply and use across value chains and harnessing global opportunities; and recognizing the role of regions and autonomous communities in planning and implementation, without prejudice to the division of competences between the EU and its Member States.

²⁰ ST 16071/25.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. STRESSES the need for coherent, predictable and supportive implementation of existing Union legislation relevant to the bioeconomy, including the Common Agricultural Policy, the Common Fisheries Policy, the Renewable Energy Directive, the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, the Fertilizing Products Regulation, the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation, the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation, the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), **the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry Regulation (LULUCF)**, the Nature Restoration Regulation, **the Soil Monitoring Law**, the Taxonomy Regulation and the Carbon Removal Certification Framework (CRCF) and also of the aims set, **inter alia**, in the Biodiversity Strategy, **the Forest Strategy**, **the** Competitiveness Compass for the EU, the Vision for Agriculture and Food, the Nature Credits Roadmap and the Water Resilience Strategy; while **ENCOURAGING the removing of** regulatory barriers, ensuring regulatory coherence, **the simplification of** permitting and approvals and avoiding additional administrative burdens and duplications.
2. ENCOURAGES Member States to continue developing and aligning their national strategies and action plans with the new EU Bioeconomy Strategy and integrate its objectives into regional and national plans such as ~~into~~ National Energy and Climate Plans, **National Long-term Low Emissions Development Strategies, National Adaptation Strategies**, National Restoration Plans, CAP Strategic Plans, National Strategies or Action Plans for the Circular Economy and regional development strategies; Green Public Procurement National Action Plans; ensuring effective participation of regions and autonomous communities in project selection and investment planning as well as ensuring that increasing biomass demand does not undermine food and **nutrition security** ~~feed production~~ or the long-term productive capacity of primary sectors.

3. ENCOURAGES the mainstreaming of circular-bio-based **and circular** solutions across all relevant sectors, **by promoting the substitution of fossil-based resources and taking into account the efficient and sustainable use of bio-based resources and bioeconomy actions** cascading use of biomass as a guiding principle and bioeconomy standards that support market uptake, **SMEs, scale-ups and start-ups** and biodiversity objectives in coherence with the commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the EU legislation and strategies on this matter, while staying within planetary boundaries, **respecting the commitments made under the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework,** protecting the EU carbon sink, safeguarding the environment and human health, **and** respecting regional diversity. ~~and, supporting SMEs and scale-ups.~~
4. UNDERLINES the importance of systemic **comprehensive** education, ~~and~~ training **and knowledge transfer capacities** programs; EMPHASISES **the need for** awareness- raising among primary producers, economic operators, **cooperatives**, national, regional and local authorities, policymakers, ~~and~~ consumers **and the public in general,** and **for** transparent monitoring of biomass flows and environmental impacts through the EU Bioeconomy Monitoring System; and ~~urges~~ **CALLS** for strengthened outreach and consumer engagement, **along with capacity building and upscaling within** including the public sector through, inter alia, green public procurement, to promote sustainable lifestyles and consumption.
5. CALLS for a competitive, transparent and sustainably sourced single market for biomass, biobased products and circular bio-based solutions in Europe, and HIGHLIGHTS the importance of **a consistent sustainability framework** ~~enhancing coherence and comparability of sustainability criteria for biomass and market surveillance standards~~ **mechanisms** to mitigate negative impacts, while RECOGNISING the specific structural constraints faced by certain regions, including island Member States, notably limited biomass availability, high dependence on the marine environment, and **a** heightened vulnerability of ecosystems, and UNDERTAKES to ensure that such considerations are duly integrated into the development and implementation of relevant measures.

- 5a. STRESSES the importance for the bioeconomy strategy to take into account the specificities of outermost regions, **extreme cold weather condition regions and the eastern border region** in their use of biomass and RECOGNIZES its important role for the decarbonization of these territories, in line with sustainability requirements.
- 5b. WELCOMES Commission's intention to report on the delivery of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy by 2028 **and the continuation of the EU-Member States Bioeconomy Dialogues.**

INNOVATION AND INVESTMENTS

6. UNDERSCORES the aim to scale up innovation and industrial deployment of sustainable bio-based solutions, including through biorefineries, advanced fermentation, and bio-based materials manufacturing and processing **as well as water-smart solutions**; and supports pilot- to- plant scale- up accessible demonstration facilities **and STRESSES that existing, established business continue to be an important platform for innovation and that equal access to development opportunities should be secured.**
7. STRONGLY SUPPORTS the removal of existing barriers for sustainable biobased products and solutions and the simplification of regulatory requirements **without harming environmental objectives**, and WELCOMES **TAKES NOTE of the proposed** Biotech Act I and the ~~proposed~~ **announced** EU Biotech Act II and the establishment of a European Bioeconomy Regulators and Innovators' Forum as **important** first steps ~~to~~ **in accelerating** authorisations and access to market and reducing the administrative burden for businesses and public authorities.
8. ENCOURAGES the roll-out of digital tools and data-driven approaches to improve productivity and resource efficiency across bioeconomy value chains, and the development of professional skills and training in all sectors of the value chain.
9. UNDERLINES the need for research and innovation and to streamline market entry for sustainable bio-based products, strengthen competitiveness and support for SMEs, scaleups and startups.

10. RECOGNISES the significant investment needs for scaling up bioeconomy innovation and sustainable industrial deployment; in line with the objectives outlined in the Letta and Draghi reports to boost Europe's competitiveness, strengthen its **open** strategic autonomy, and accelerate the deployment of strategic technologies to ~~decarbonize our economies and~~ foster the shift to **renewable and fossil free** circular **and sustainable** production and consumption patterns.
11. WELCOMES the Commission's intention to **continue financing necessary innovation of bio-based production throughout the value chain and to** contribute to attracting **investors** and lowering **investment risks** by mobilising blended finance instruments and strengthening **cooperation** with the European Investment Bank Group, including through the Bioeconomy Investment Deployment Group; and CALLS for robust EU financial instruments to derisk innovative biobased investments **and ACKNOWLEDGES the positive role played by the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking in supporting innovation and scaling up.**
12. URGES Member States to improve access to both early- and late-stage private venture capital ~~on~~ **at** national and regional levels, to cooperate with national promotional banks to increase investments, and to make full use of available EU funds and existing State aid flexibilities ~~(including~~ **for example, the general block exemption rules, the climate, energy and environmental State aid rules** ~~state aid block exemption rules under the environmental aid framework~~ **and the block exemption for agriculture)** for sustainable bioeconomy projects and reforms; and to ensure financing reaches all regions and communities directly, including islands, ~~and~~ **the** outermost regions **and the Eastern border region.**

DEVELOPING LEAD MARKETS FOR MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES

13. ENCOURAGES the development of lead markets and demand-side measures, including green public procurement and voluntary industry alliances, to strengthen business predictability, accelerate the bio-based transition and support the design of the Important Projects of Common **European** Interest (IPCEI) on key components for food and **nutrition security** feed, **sustainable** bio-based materials and bio-based chemicals and to ~~voluntarily~~ **where possible,** innovative biobased products in public procurement, taking into account cost-efficiency.

14. UNDERLINES that creating predictable demand for sustainable bio-based materials and technologies is essential to unlocking private investment and accelerating market scale-up; in this context, WELCOMES the Commission's intention to identify and strengthen lead markets in the sectors listed in the Strategy; STRESSES, however, the need to also address additional sectors, such as footwear and textile, cork, natural resins, pulp and paper, natural fibers, mycelium-based materials, bio-based fiber packaging, biopharmaceuticals, and marine and blue bioeconomy applications, notably in island and coastal Member States, while RECALLING that a bio-based product is not automatically environmentally friendly, specifically in the case of bio-based plastics, which although they have the potential to reduce environmental impacts compared to conventional plastics, need to be sustainably sourced, used and designed for circularity.
15. INVITES the Commission and Member States to promote demand-side measures, including introduction of bio-based content requirements ~~only~~ **and technologies** where technically and economically feasible, green public procurement where possible, voluntary industry alliances, certification schemes, to support early market uptake and scale up of bio-based materials and products; while ensuring coherence with existing legislation, cost-efficiency and avoiding unnecessary administrative burdens, without causing negative human and animal or environmental effects.
16. ENCOURAGES the development ~~of~~ and the use of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) analysis, harmonised standards, NACE codes and performance and durability, repairability, reusability and recyclability requirements for bio-based materials and products under the Construction Products Regulation, the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation and other relevant policy frameworks.
17. STRESSES the importance of the efficient use of ~~easeading use of~~ biomass, and prioritising high-value applications to ensure food and nutrition security while maintaining and improving ecosystems services; ENCOURAGES, where feasible, the production of higher-value products and materials that store carbon for longer and substitute fossil-based materials while ensuring circularity, resource efficiency and conservation of natural resources, competitiveness and the reduction of pressures on ecosystem and food-supply markets as a guiding principle; ~~while keeping cascade as guidance for Member States.~~

18. SUPPORTS the creation of industrial symbiosis, **through platforms, districts, valleys or cross-border initiatives, and the development of** bioeconomy hubs and demonstration infrastructure to enable SMEs and innovators to test and scale new sustainable bio-based materials and products, better conditions for cross- border clusters and joint investments, and comprehensive support for academia, start-ups, and the industrial sector in researching and developing new sustainable bio-based products, materials, and technologies.

SUSTAINABLE BIOMASS SUPPLY AND CIRCULARITY

- 18a. WELCOMES the Commission's intention to ~~improve~~ **strengthen the robustness of existing** monitoring **data** of biomass availability relying on the Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy; and CALLS upon the Commission to assess the availability of sustainable biomass compared to the **projected** demand for biomass in the EU in ~~2040~~ **2035** and 2045.
19. STRESSES that sustainable biomass supply is essential for the long-term viability of the bioeconomy and that the use of biomass must respect planetary and climate boundaries and biodiversity objectives, safeguarding the environment including the quality of air, water and soil **health**; CALLS upon the Commission to ensure that coherent long-term measures are implemented to maintain productive capacity, ecosystem health, and resources resilience; and **to ensure the consistency of existing** ~~to propose enhance the coherence, transparency and predictability of clear harmonised sustainability~~ **frameworks** ~~criteria and analyse the potential role of an EU certification system with clearer market signals~~ applicable across all biomass uses.
20. CALLS upon Member States to reduce the need for primary biomass **resources** by making circularity **one of the** a core principles of the European bioeconomy, **by promoting prevention, reuse and recycling as well as** ~~notably through~~ the use of secondary biomass streams, including **by-products**, bio-waste and residues and by ~~promoting prevention, reuse and recycling, as well as~~ awareness-raising on sustainable consumption, while recognising national specificities and security- of- supply needs, food security and food safety requirements.

21. UNDERLINES the importance of sustainable and integrated land, forest, coastal and water management in maintaining ecosystem health and productive capacity; and EMPHASISES the need for policies related to the bioeconomy and biomass use to fully integrate climate, environment, and human health considerations.
22. UNDERLINES that sustainably produced bioenergy, in particular from waste, residual and low-value biomass, remains an important component of the Union's energy mix, contributing to security of supply, affordability, energy independence and climate objectives notably where no decarbonization alternatives exist, while respecting specific energy needs, and RECOGNISES that material uses of biomass should be prioritised where they deliver higher long-term value and that energy uses should focus on residues and be adapted to local and regional conditions.
23. ACKNOWLEDGES the central role of the primary sector in supplying and further processing sustainable biomass and CALLS for the creation of added value within the primary sector through ~~tailored~~ the support of public and private funding instruments, ~~realistic targets~~ and the minimisation of administrative and regulatory burdens, while respecting the need for biomass input to improve soil health and the decontamination of polluted sites; SUPPORTS the development of economic incentives for carbon farming and nature positive actions, for example through the CRCF and the Commission's Roadmap for nature credits; INVITES the Commission and the Member States to make use of ~~all the~~ existing funding opportunities to support the primary sector in supplying sustainable biomass to the bioeconomy.

24. STRESSES the importance of waste prevention, including food waste, circularity and increased valorisation of by-products along the value chain, and CALLS FOR strengthened separate collection and legal clarity for biodegradable waste, as well as the promotion of its conversion into bio-based **material and** chemicals, quality compost, digestate, biogas and biomethane and other sustainable biofuels **in accordance with RED III criteria**; and **UNDERLINES that closing the nutrient cycle and nutrient recovery from sewage sludge is essential for environmental and economic resilience and** NOTES that, subject to strict environmental safeguards and without incentivising their spread, the controlled use of already established invasive **alien** plant species biomass, for the production of pulp and paper, fibres, or energy or the extraction of high-value compounds, **in compliance with the regime of permits and authorization set in Article 8 and 9 of Regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species**, may be considered as part of their management and eradication, **while** and respecting the restrictions, of **that** Regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species.
- ~~25. ACKNOWLEDGING the challenges that forest owners and forest managers face, HIGHLIGHTS the strategic role of forestry, and the wood value chain and non-wood forest products in the bioeconomy and CALLS FOR the promotion of innovation in sustainable forest management, cascading use of wood as a guiding principle, forest restructuring and the development of guidelines for new wood types, while balancing adaptation to climate change, biodiversity conservation and restoration, economic development and rural vitality, and fully respecting Member States' competences and national specificities, including those as enabled by RED III.~~
25. **HIGHLIGHTS the strategic role of forest- based bioeconomy as well as the wood value chain and non-wood forest products in the bioeconomy providing sustainable growth and employment, economic development, biodiversity conservation and restoration, climate neutrality and adaptation as well as circular business models. CALLS for the promotion of innovation in sustainable forest management using the most efficient pathway for high value added products. NOTES the role of European forest owners and managers in securing security of supply, fully respecting Member states competencies and national specificities.**

- 25a. ~~EMPHASISES~~ **AKNOWLEDGES** the strategic role of fisheries and aquaculture as one of the key pillars of the bioeconomy and sustainable blue economy; **RECOGNISES the benefits of the sector in** providing renewable, low-carbon biological resources that contribute to food security **and** competitiveness; **and HIGHLIGHTS the need for the sector to consider** sustainable growth, climate neutrality, water resilience and biodiversity protection.
26. UNDERLINES the importance of security of domestic supply and fair competition in biomass markets and CALLS FOR ~~efficient and reinforced market surveillance~~ measures to safeguard biomass supply chains against external and internal disturbances and protect SMEs and local processors through proportionate compliance requirements and improved market access.

GLOBAL ACTION

27. UNDERLINES the need to strengthen the EU's role as **a** leading partner in shaping a global sustainable bioeconomy agenda and promoting fair and rules-based trade; including ~~attention to~~ **taking into account** free and fair competition to avoid unfair imports and HIGHLIGHTS the importance of ensuring a global level playing field particularly for sectors where EU producers are subjected to higher environmental, social and due diligence requirements.
- 27a. ~~REITERATES the resolute condemnation of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has led to severe environmental degradation, pollution, resource depletion and long-lasting damage to ecosystems, infrastructure, and communities.~~ **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN over the extensive environmental degradation, pollution, and resource depletion resulting from Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine, which has led to severe and long-lasting damage to ecosystems, infrastructure, and communities** and STRESSES the importance of developing an EU bioeconomy that enhances security, resilience and strategic autonomy.

28. CALLS FOR strategic partnerships under the Global Gateway to support investments in sustainable biomass supply chains, knowledge exchange and innovation cooperation with partner countries, and also for global market access for EU **sustainable** bio-based technologies and products under trade agreements and regulatory dialogues; and to prioritise blue bioeconomy cooperation for coastal, island **and inland water regions** of the Union, including through strengthened coordination with existing regional governance frameworks, regional seas conventions and inland water conventions.
29. HIGHLIGHTS the importance of engaging in ~~pan-European and international fora such as Forest Europe,~~ the international environment and climate conventions, UNEP, FAO, WTO, UNFF, COFFI, the International Bioeconomy Forum, and the International Resource Panel **and in pan-European fora, such as Forest Europe**, to advance convergence on sustainability **frameworks** ~~standards~~ and **exchange** best practices and RECALLS the advances provided by the G20 Principles on Bioeconomy (2024), which encourages fostering international collaboration and cooperation, through capacity building and sharing of best practices **and also RECALLS the Final Communiqué of the 2025 Global Forum for Food and Agriculture, especially for the primary sector.**
30. INVITES the Commission to foster cooperation with candidate countries, neighbouring regions and strategic partners to build resilient bioeconomy hubs; and to support macro- regional initiatives including the BIOEAST R&I roadmap with a comprehensive impact assessment of Central and Eastern Europe's contribution; address obstacles like persistent barriers within the single market, to safeguarding Europe's competitiveness, ensuring that innovation is nurtured and commercialized within the Union, and strengthening the resilience of its ~~lead~~ markets.
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