

A new EU Bioeconomy Strategy

ShapingBio Summit *“Empowering Europe: Leading the Deployment in the Bioeconomy”*

25 June 2025

*Peter WEHRHEIM – Head of Unit in DG Research and Innovation,
“Bioeconomy & Food Systems”*

Agenda

1. The Bioeconomy provides solutions
2. How to scale up the EU Bioeconomy (faster)?
3. A New EU Bioeconomy Strategy



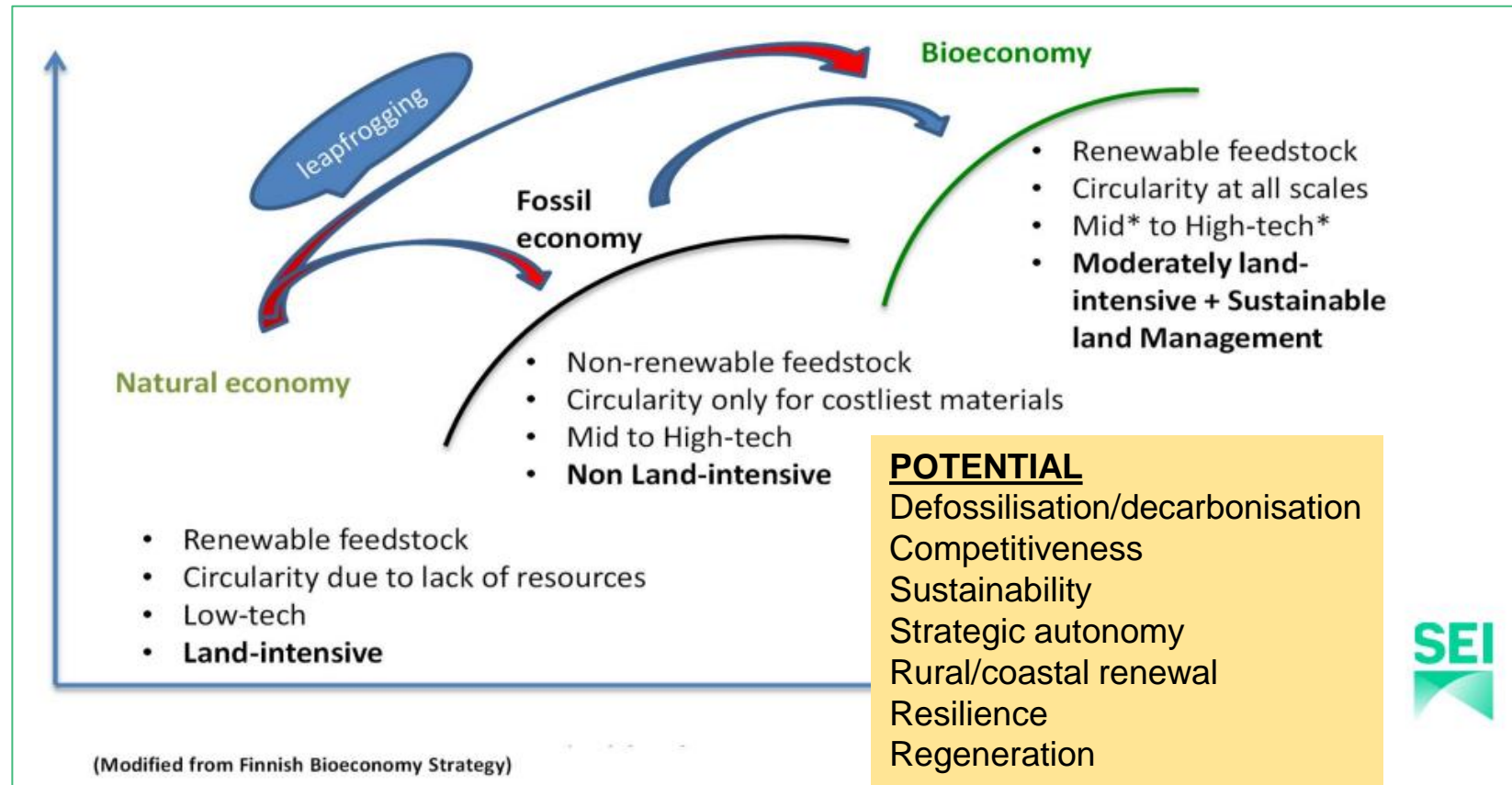
The Bioeconomy provides solutions

Future proof our economy:

- Improve how we produce, use, process, distribute or consume **biological resources**, including ecosystem services
- Holistic approach

Using **solutions** based on:

- Biotech/biomanufacturing
- Life sciences
- Digital/data
- Social innovation
- 3 • New business models



We have to make a success of the green transition (Draghi)

ENOUGH[®]

delicious. nutritious. sustainable.

A Belgian-UK startup uses the natural process of fermentation to produce a ABUNDA mycoprotein. It is a sustainable protein relevant to multiple categories and product applications. *Result of Plenitude flagship of CBE JU.*



avantium

Dutch Avantium opened new factory to produce biobased chemicals at scale including PEF, that outperforms fossil-based PET for packaging & textile. *Result of PEFerence flagship of CBE JU.*



Fibenol

Estonian start-up that developed a new generation of sugars, lignin and cellulose from hardwood. For a new era of biomaterials and bioproducts, helping industries do more with less. *Result of Sweetwoods flagship of CBE JU.*





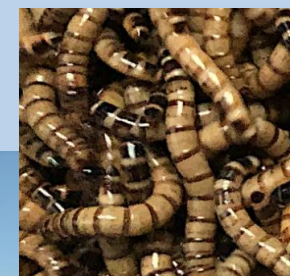
A Norwegian company working on algae derived products. Building multifunctional biorefinery for the sustainable production of bio and pharma ingredients.



A Finnish company offering an ecological alternative to ceramic bathroom products. Manufactures washbasins, toilets, tiles, etc. from an innovative wood composite material that reduces CO2 footprint by 99%

Farm 't Worteleindje

A Dutch dairy farmer (Marije Van Velthoven) diversifying in insect production for bird, fish or reptile feed.



Sustainable biorefining of
kelp



Commission priorities for 2024-2029

A new plan for **Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness**

A new era for European Defence and Security

Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model

Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature

Protecting our democracy, upholding our values

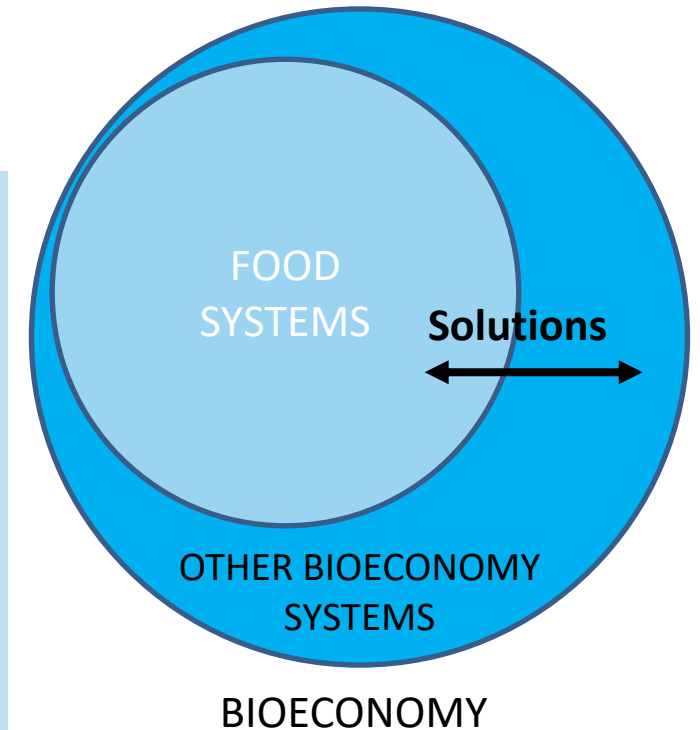
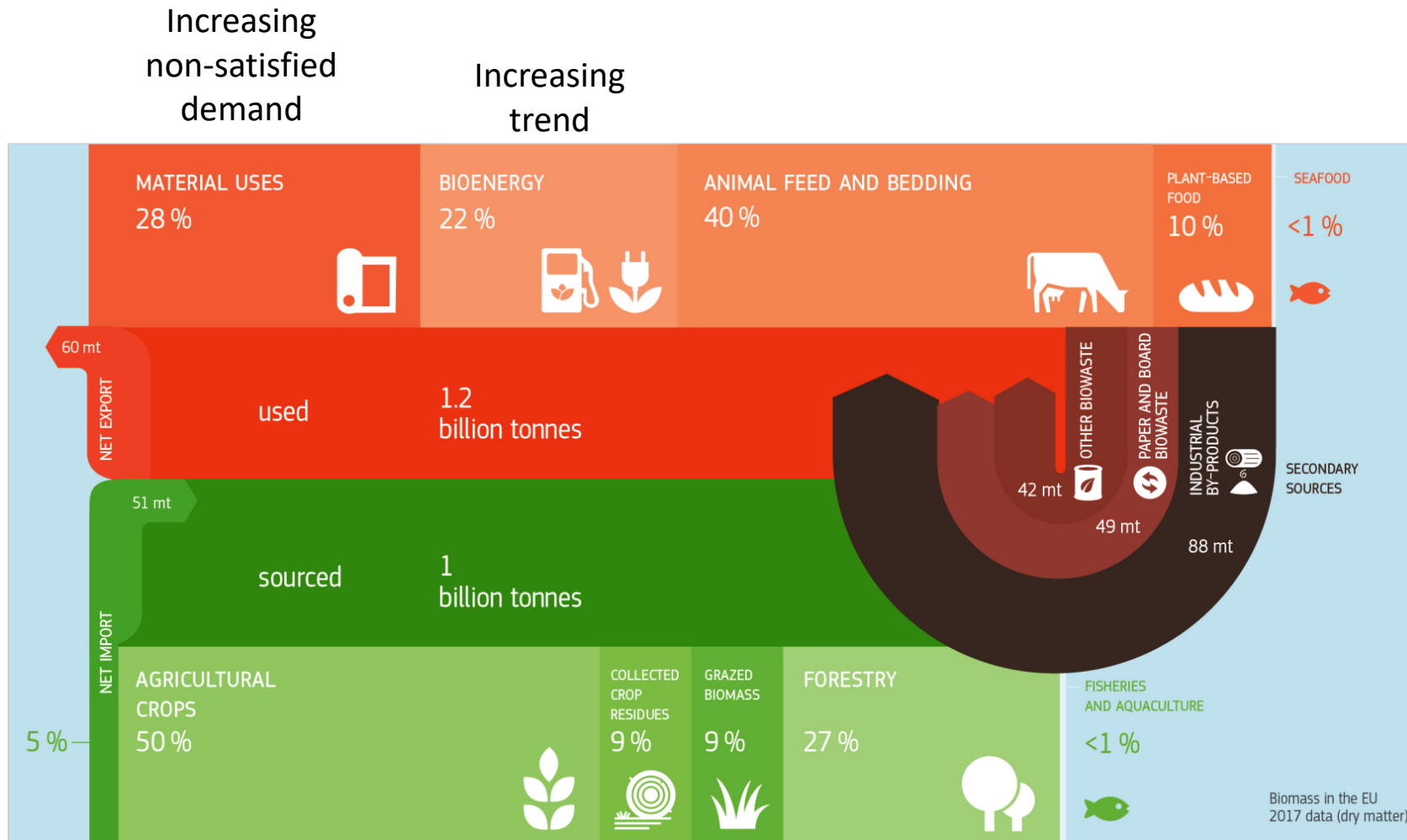
A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships

Delivering together and preparing our Union for the future



A sustainable, circular and resilient bioeconomy

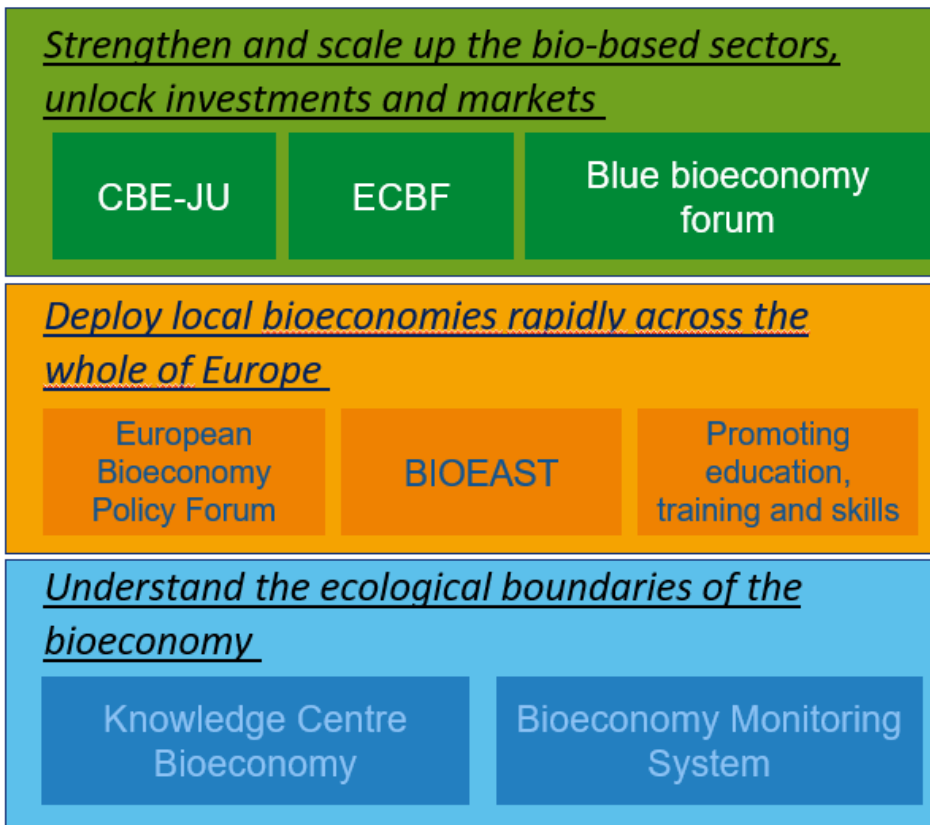
- Sustainable supply and use of biomass for food, material and energy -



Scaling-up/deploying the EU Bioeconomy

Call under Horizon Europe
HORIZON-CL6-2021-GOVERNANCE-01-04

2018 EU Bioeconomy Action Plan

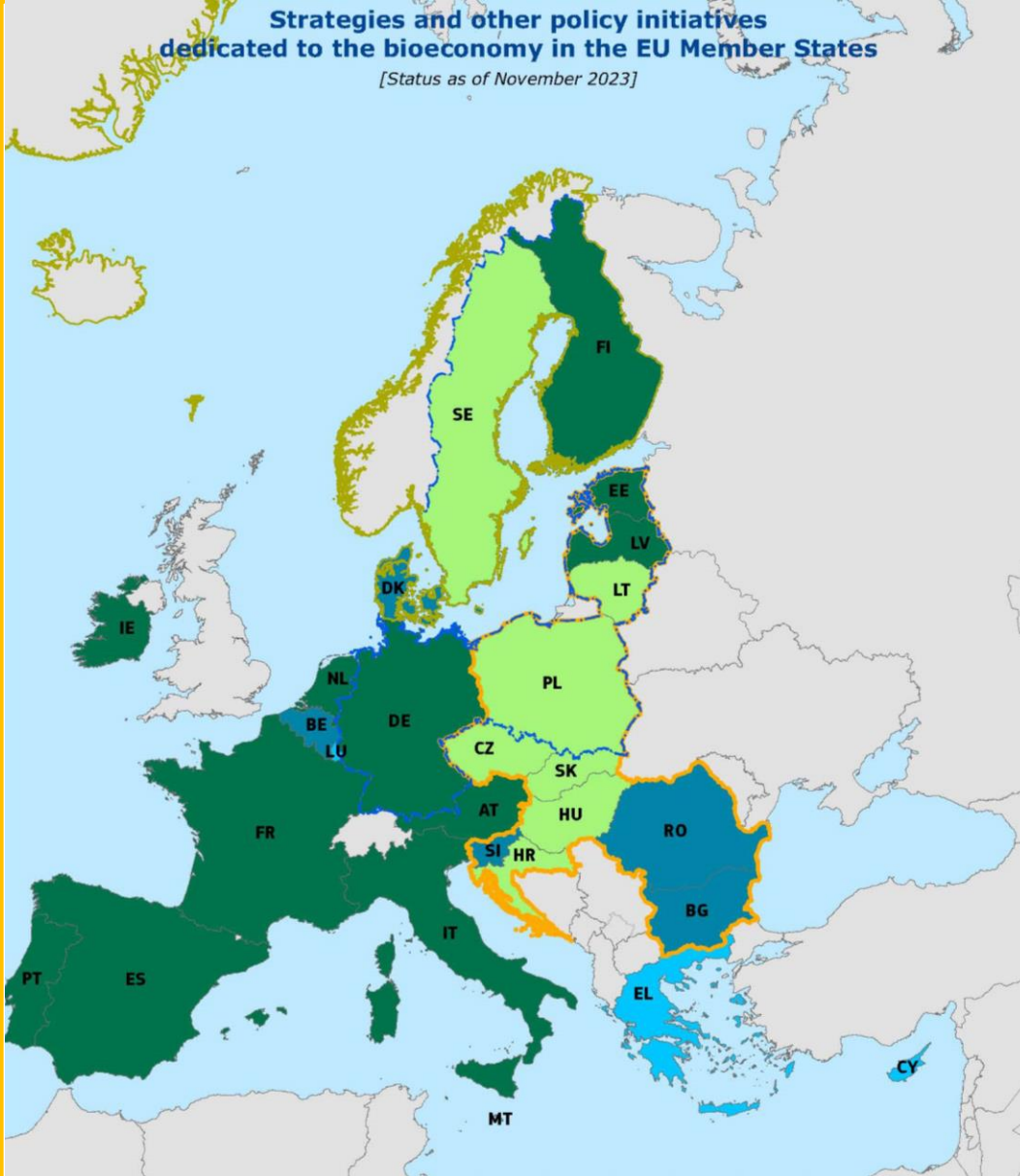


Horizon Europe
research on
**“How to
accelerate
deployment?”**



ShapingBio aims to create a better understanding and information basis of the bioeconomy innovation eco-system by providing a comprehensive mapping and analysis of initiatives, structures, policy instruments and key gaps across the EU macro-regions and different sectors related to:

- Policy and governance
- Applied R&D and technology transfer
- Collaboration (cross-sectoral)
- Financing

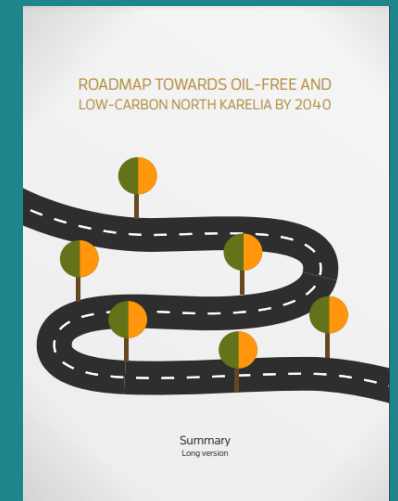


Deploy local bioeconomies & new value chains

How to join forces with Member States, regions and stakeholders to:

- deploy place-based innovation across different levels of governance
- building new value chains (industrial symbiosis) across primary and industrial sectors

- **28 EU** regions have dedicated strategies

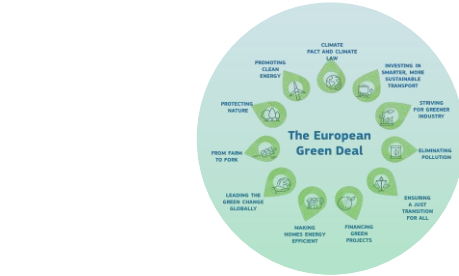


Next step: a New EU Bioeconomy Strategy

First Bioeconomy Strategy



Efficient use of renewable resources
Focus on R&I



Towards a green and just transition

Council Conclusions



Central role of a sustainable and circular Bioeconomy
Better integrate bioeconomy in all EU policies
Updated EU Bioeconomy Strategy and Action Plan

New Commission

New Bioeconomy Strategy

2012

2018

2022

2023

2024

2025

Updated Bioeconomy Strategy



Update: upscaling within ecological boundaries

Bioeconomy Progress Report



Resolving multiple pressures on land and sea
Focus on overall consumption of biological resources

March 2024:
Communication on Boosting Biotech & Bio-manufacturing in the EU



New Bioeconomy strategy in 2025 ...

... promote the **circular and sustainable** production, use and consumption of biological resources for food, materials, energy and services. ... build on the know-how of Life Sciences to maintain **EU industrial leadership**, and make our industries **resilient** for the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Coherent policy framework - Bioeconomy strategy well embedded in:



Cross-DG work led by Commissioner ROSWALL



EU Startup & Scaleup Strategy



Five strands of targeted actions:

1 | Fostering an innovation-friendly environment

- Implementing the European 28th regime
- Launching the European Business Wallet
- Introducing the European Innovation Act
- Cutting red tape in strategic sectors

3 | Supporting startups' market uptake and expansion

- Creating a Lab-to-Unicorn initiative
- Fostering pro-innovation procurement

5 | Facilitating access to infrastructure, networks and services

- Introducing the Charter of Access

2 | Driving better financing for startups and scaleups

- Expanding the European Innovation Council and simplifying its rules
- Establishing the Scaleup Europe Fund
- Launching the European Innovation Investment Pact

4 | Attracting and retaining the best talent

- Launching the Blue Carpet initiative
- Promoting improved pathways for founders, researchers, students and skilled professionals

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Ekaterina Zaharieva ✓

@EZaharievaEU



Visited the New Wood exhibition with President Ursula von der Leyen, showcasing innovative wood-based solutions driving the sustainable bioeconomy 🌲. Bio-based materials are key to defossilizing the EU economy. Supported by [#HorizonEurope](#) & [#CBEJU](#) for a greener future!



Ursula von der Leyen



Peter Wehrheim • 1st

Head of Unit "Food Systems and Bioeconomy" at European Commiss...

1w •



Over the past two weeks, visitors passing by the Piazza located in the Berlaymont building - in the centre of the European quarter of Brussels - had the opportunity to see... [...more](#)



Peter Wehrheim • 1st

Head of Unit "Food Systems and Bioeconomy" at European Commiss...

6mo •



The leaders of the [#G20](#) met in Rio de Janeiro on 18-19 November, 2024, to address major global challenges and crises and promote strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

The G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration enshrines the achievements of the Brazilian presidency throughout the year, such as the G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy [#GIB](#) with the decision on the ten voluntary, non-binding High-Level Principles on [#Bioeconomy](#) aiming to "outline how this innovative complementary productive paradigm can and should be economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable".

We support [#South](#) Africa to continue and implement, under their G20 Presidency in 2025, the work being carried out under the [#GIB](#).



1 comment • 8 reposts



Some key questions

1. How to create efficient **demand** for more value from less resources
2. How to **scale-up better** from lab to fab – what are priorities
3. How to secure sustainably sourced **biomass supply**
4. How to ensure a **globally competitive** European bioeconomy sector

How to work with Member States, regions & stakeholders?



Take away messages



Scaling the bioeconomy is **at the heart of the political guidelines** of the new European Commission (2024-2029). A holistic approach is key.



Recommendations by ShapingBio are very **valuable to inspire EC, Member States, stakeholders and regions** on how to scale-up the Bioeconomy and bring it from “niche to norm”



Bioeconomy strategy end of 2025: EC is processing results of **public consultation** and **call for evidence**, on top of more targeted consultations

Thank you

- Join me on LinkedIn: [\(32\) Feed | LinkedIn](#)
- [EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy - European Commission](#)
- EU Bioeconomy Strategy: [Bioeconomy strategy - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)
- Commission Communication on Biotechnology & Biomanufacturing: [Actions to boost biotechnology and biomanufacturing in EU \(europa.eu\)](#)



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Significant RTD investment in Bioeconomy, incl.

1. Strengthen and scale-up the bio-based sectors, unlock investments and markets;

- **Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking** (2014-2020): € 1 billion EU funding + € 2.8 billion private
- **Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking** (2021-2030): € 1 billion EU funding + > € 1.0 billion private
- **European Circular Bioeconomy Fund**: first private venture capital impact fund (€ 300 million investment)

2. Deploy local bioeconomies rapidly across Europe;

- **European Bioeconomy Policy Forum**: platform for MS to exchange & discuss best practice / bioeconomy policies:
 - 11 MS with national bioeconomy strategies + 7 MS with dedicated strategies under development;
 - 28 regions with dedicated bioeconomy strategies
- **Stakeholder engagement**: Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors – “Bioeconomy Youth Vision”
- **International engagement**: International Bioeconomy Forum, Global Bioeconomy Summit, G20 Bioeconomy Initiative

3. Understand the ecological boundaries of the bioeconomy

- **JRC** – Knowledge Centre on Bioeconomy, Bioeconomy Monitoring System, project on Integrated Bioeconomy Land Use Assessment. Current JRC support contract € 3 million.
- **Horizon Europe** Cluster 6 “Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment” (c. € 9 billion 2021-2027)



CBE JU flagship projects



 Flagship biorefinery

PROTEUS

1

Avaldsnes
Norway

SWEETWOODS

3

Imavere
Estonia

VIOBOND

5

Riga
Latvia

PLENITUDE

7

Sas van Gent
The Netherlands

PEference
The Renewable Innovation

9

Delfzijl
The Netherlands

AFTER I
BIOCHEM

11

Saint-Avoid
France

S
SustainNext

13

Hervás
Spain

scale

15

Baillargues
France

FIRST
2KUN

17

Porto Torres
Italy

lignoflag
CBE JU

19

Podari
Romania

OXILVA
PROJECT

2

Sarpsborg
Norway

WOODCELL

4

Imavere
Estonia

AgriChemWhey

6

Co. Tipperary
Ireland

CIRCLE

8

Amsterdam
The Netherlands

farmYng

10

Amiens
France

ReSolute

12

Saint-Avoid
France

CIRCULAR BIOCARBON

14

Zaragoza & Sesto
San Giovanni
Spain & Italy

SylPlant

16

Le Péage-de-Roussillon
France

TERRIFIC

18

Bottrighe
Italy



Circular
Bio-based
Europe
Joint Undertaking



2014-2020

Bio-based Industries

Joint Undertaking:

- € 1 billion funding
- € 2.8 billion private contribution



2021-2031

CBE Joint

Undertaking:

€2 billion

partnership

– European Union

- Bio-based

Industries

Consortium (BIC)



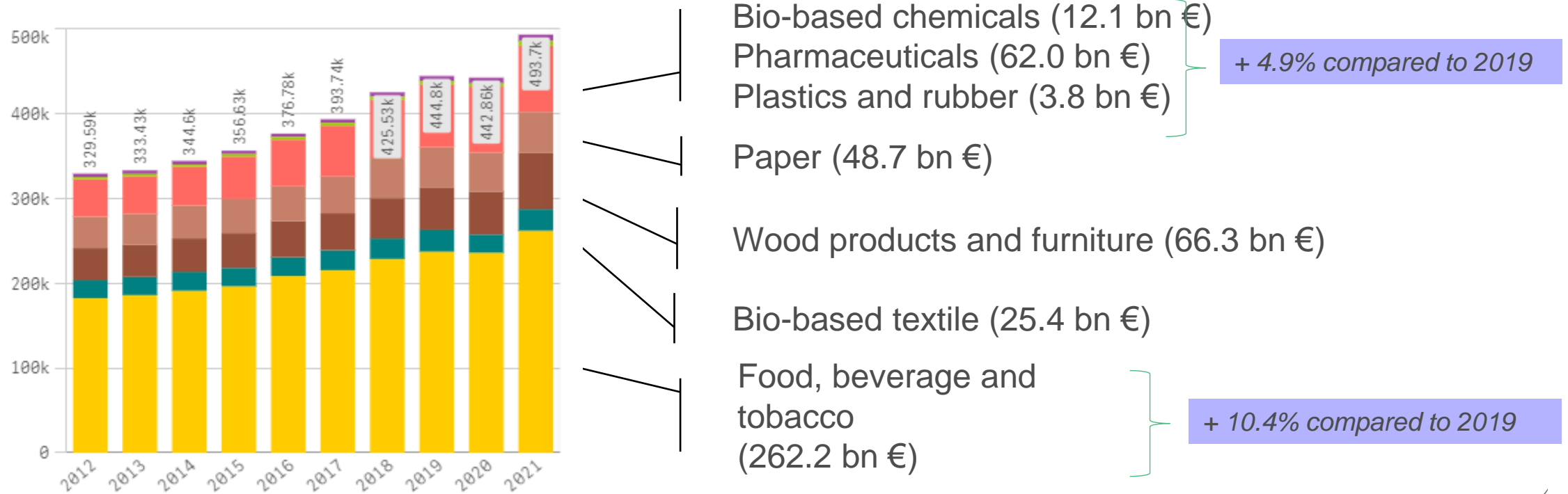
Bio-based industries in the EU

Development of value added in the bio-based industries between 2012 and 2021 in EU27 (mio €)

BB industries in EU*

- 7.9 million workers
- €494 billion of value added

*Construction and waste treatment are not accounted for



Commission priorities for 2024-2029

A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness

A new era for European Defence and Security

Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model

Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature

Protecting our democracy, upholding our values

A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships

Delivering together and preparing our Union for the future

