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# **Bioeconomy:**

## **Contributing to achieving the EU's climate and energy goals and the UN's sustainable development goals/ Update of EU Bioeconomy Strategy**

Bioeconomy Workshop

Salzburg

4 April 2019



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## What is the EESC?

The European Economic and Social Committee is a consultative body that represents **organised civil society – 350 Members**





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## **EESC: Surrounding Topics of Bioeconomy**

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
  - Global Agenda
- Understanding of Sustainability
- Circular Economy
- Digital Economy/Society



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## EESC Opinions on the Bioeconomy

- Completed
  - Bioeconomy – contributing to achieving the EU's climate and energy goals and the UN's sustainable development goals
  - New opportunities from a sustainable and inclusive bioeconomy for the European economy
- Ongoing
  - Review of the updated European Bioeconomy Strategy
  - Exploratory opinion on the Blue Bioeconomy for the Finnish Presidency



**Civil Society in Action:**  
**European Bioeconomy Strategy**



# Bioeconomy Communication of European Commission 2018

# What is the EU's understanding of the Bioeconomy.....

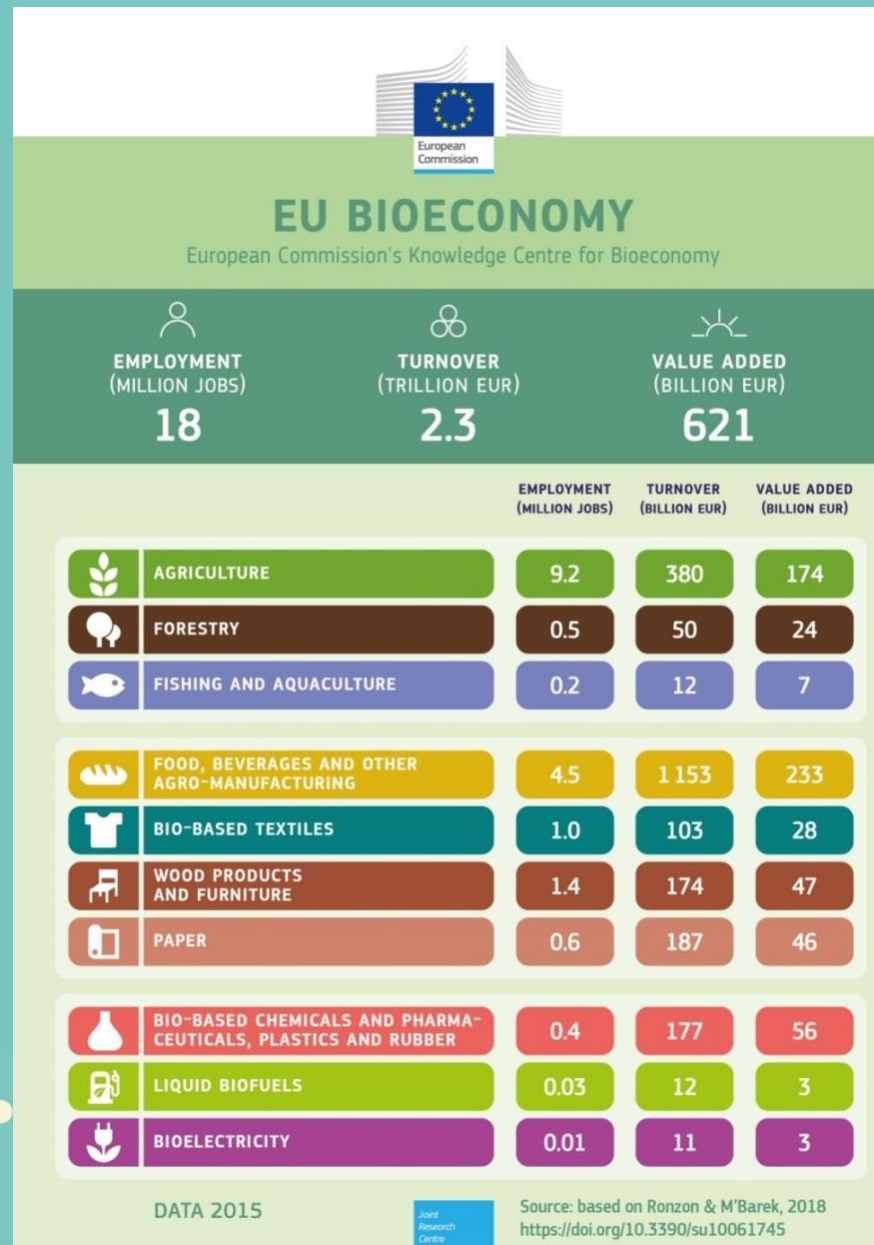
All sectors & systems that use / produce  
/ process / are driven by biological resource



- Ecosystems on land and sea
- Primary production systems - agriculture, forestry, aquaculture / fisheries – **incl. waste/side streams**
- Food, feed, fibres, bio-based industry, fuels and bio-energy



# The European Bioeconomy in numbers



# CONTEXT

- **Communication on Bioeconomy – 2012**

Food security, sustainable management of natural resources, climate change mitigation, reduced fossil-dependence, jobs creation and EU competitiveness

- **Review of Bioeconomy Strategy – 2017**

good delivery, objectives still relevant, increasing importance, more focussed actions for evolved context (SDGs, renewed industrial policy, circular economy, ...)

- **Communication on updated Bioeconomy – 2018**

- Major initiative under the Commission's 2018 workplan
- Coordination by the Secretariat General and DG Research and Innovation together with the departments for agriculture, environment, marine, industry, energy and others (DGs AGRI, ENV, MARE, GROW, JRC, ENER...)
- Adopted on 11/10/2018



# WHAT does the updated Bioeconomy strategy aim to achieve....

- Link the sustainable use of renewable biological resources for food, feed, bio-based products and bioenergy, with the protection and restoration of biodiversity, ecosystems and natural capital across land and water.
- Step up action to ensure that the Bioeconomy provides a long-term balance of social, environmental and economic gains.

## .... and HOW

- A SYSTEM-wide approach,
- expanding beyond research and innovation,
- delivering on policies across sectors, addressing trade-offs
- strengthening CIRCULARITY and SUSTAINABILITY
- delivering for the citizens - on jobs, sustainable growth, well being - and on planetary health
- in LOCAL contexts, valorising local resources and adapted to local needs



# DRIVING EU POLICY PRIORITIES

- **Job creation** – e.g. Bio-based industries could create up to 1 million jobs by 2030 (industry estimate), in particular in rural and coastal areas
- **Climate mitigation** – through use of bio-energy/ bio-based materials/ecosystems services; e.g. the use of 1 ton of wood instead of 1 ton of concrete in construction can lead to 2.1 ton CO<sub>2</sub> reduction
- **A renewed and strengthened EU industrial base** – Global leadership position in bio-chemicals and substitutes for fossil raw materials (plastics, packaging, cosmetics, consumer goods) based on research and innovation
- **Circular economy** – e.g. cutting food waste, recycling of high value organic waste
- **Healthy ecosystems and biodiversity** – e.g. through restoring degraded soils



Europe's  
**bioeconomy**  
weaving it all together



# Actions

1

## STRENGTHEN AND SCALE-UP THE BIO-BASED SECTORS, UNLOCK INVESTMENTS AND MARKETS



**Mobilise** stakeholders in **development** and **deployment** of **sustainable bio-based solutions**



Launch the **EUR 100 million** Circular Bioeconomy Thematic **Investment Platform**



**Analyse enablers and bottlenecks** for the deployment of **bio-based innovations**



Promote and develop **standards, labels and market uptake** of **bio-based products**



Facilitate the **development of new sustainable biorefineries**



**Develop new biodegradable products**, including bio-based plastic substitutes



# Actions

2

## DEPLOY LOCAL BIOECONOMIES RAPIDLY ACROSS EUROPE



**Launch a Strategic Deployment Agenda** for sustainable food and farming systems, forestry and bio-based products



**Launch pilot actions for the development of bioeconomies** in rural, coastal and urban areas



**Support regions and Member States** to develop Bioeconomy Strategies



**Promote education, training and skills** across the bioeconomy



# Actions

3

## UNDERSTAND THE ECOLOGICAL BOUNDARIES OF THE BIOECONOMY



Enhance **knowledge** on biodiversity and ecosystems



Monitor **progress** towards a sustainable bioeconomy



Promote **good practices** to operate the bioeconomy within **safe ecological limits**



Enhance the **benefits** of biodiversity in **primary production**





## **EESC Opinion: Bioeconomy: Climate, Energy and Sustainable Development Goals**

- Austrian Presidency of the Council asked the EESC for an exploratory opinion
- Objective was to explore how the bioeconomy can help achieve climate, energy and sustainable development goals
- Conclusions and Recommendations from the opinion:



## Bioeconomy and Climate Change

- The transition to carbon-neutrality and circularity will increasingly act as a driver for the bioeconomy
- the bioeconomy contributes to climate change mitigation by:
  - sequestering CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere in biomass
  - storing carbon in bio-based products and
  - substituting fossil-based feedstocks and products with bio-based ones



## **Bioeconomy and Energy**

- The bioeconomy contributes to the EU's climate and energy targets by:
  - replacing fossil fuels with bioenergy in electricity production, in heating and cooling and in transport
  - contributes to energy efficiency
  - contributes to security of energy supply



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# Bioeconomy and Sustainable Development





## Bioeconomy and Sustainable Development

- Specific examples of where a sustainable bioeconomy can support UN SDGs:
  - SDG 2: Zero Hunger – responsible approach to bioeconomy, through ensuring food availability and sound ecosystems
  - SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation – e.g. maintaining sound forest ecosystems, a precondition for clean water
  - SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth – through fostering domestic added value and supporting local value chains



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# The Ingredients of a Sustainable Bioeconomy

- Stable, reliable and coherent framework for investments
- Policy tools, such as public procurement and state aid to provide a level playing field for bio-based products
- Research and Innovation, like the BBI JU
- Education for consumers, and training for workers and entrepreneurs
- Proper (and sustainable) infrastructure
- A global pricing system for carbon emissions
- Civil society involvement



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## **EESC Opinion to ECs Bioeconomy update is under preparation (draft preliminary)**

- Urgent challenge
- Responsible Consumption
- Opportunities for Biodiversity, Economy and Jobs
- Finance, Public-Private-Cooperation of Projects
- Long-term research and innovation strategies –
- Setting up strategies in the Member States
- Global pricing system for Carbon Emissions will be supportive



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# Thank you

Udo Hemmerling  
Employer's Group, EESC