

BioChem Europe position paper on the **Advanced Materials Act**

Advanced materials provide innovative solutions for a more efficient, sustainable, and competitive industry, playing a key role in achieving the EU objectives of strengthening competitiveness and achieving climate neutrality by 2050. BioChem Europe strongly welcomes the upcoming Act and its objective to reinforce the European Union's leadership in innovation, sustainability, and industrial competitiveness. Biomass-derived materials are a cornerstone of Europe's transition to a circular, low-carbon, and resource-efficient economy. They combine enhanced functional performance with renewable feedstocks, lower environmental footprints, and strong potential to reduce dependencies on critical raw materials.

For a successful sustainable and competitive bioeconomy, BioChem Europe calls for:

- Recognise the role of biomass-derived chemicals and materials in the upcoming Act
- Access to all types of sustainable feedstock at world market conditions
- A coherent regulatory framework

Biomass-derived chemicals and materials in Advanced Materials

Advanced materials drive efficiency, sustainability, and competitiveness across industrial value chains, supporting EU goals for climate neutrality and stronger and long-term competitiveness. The development of an Advanced Materials Act is therefore timely, as it supports the entire value chain – from research and innovation through manufacturing and deployment – reflecting the growing importance of advanced materials for the twin green and digital transitions.

Biomass-derived chemicals play a key role in the deployment of advanced materials in the EU, due to their inherent circularity and sustainability potential. Derived from resources such as agricultural outputs and forestry by-products, biomass-derived products use renewable carbon sources that naturally close the carbon loop: the CO₂ absorbed during plant growth offsets emissions during production and end of life.¹

The newly published EU Bioeconomy Strategy identifies five lead markets for materials with high potential to address challenges in reaching economies of scale: bio-based plastics and polymers, textiles from bio-based fibers and fabrics, bio-based chemicals, bio-based construction products and bio-based fertilizers

¹ [Industry-position-on-biogenic-carbon-accounting-in-PEF-final-version.pdf](#)

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and plant protection products. The Advanced Materials Act should build on the Bioeconomy Strategy and further deploy these applications.

BioChem Europe call for action:

Today, the European chemicals and materials sector, particularly the biomass-derived sector, faces a critical and structurally unfair economic situation. As outlined in the recently published EU Bioeconomy Strategy²: “*Bio-based materials often struggle to reach economies of scale resulting in higher production costs, leading to lower demand, which in turn limits growth and investment. [...]*”.

The upcoming Advanced Materials Act represents yet another opportunity to position biomass-derived chemicals and (advanced) materials at the heart of Europe’s industrial and sustainability transition. To fully unlock this potential, the biomass-derived sector calls on the European Commission to:

- 1. Explicitly recognise biomass-derived chemicals and materials as a strategic category of advanced materials:** Biomass-derived chemicals play a central role in enabling advanced materials in the EU by delivering circularity, *defossilisation*, and sustainability benefits. The Advanced Materials Act should explicitly recognise the strategic contribution of biomass-derived chemicals and materials across multiple applications and sectors. Economic competitiveness and environmental ambition should advance together: a real green industrial transformation strengthens global market position while protecting natural resources, preserving biodiversity, and promoting social justice and public health. The biomass-derived chemicals and materials sector is innovative and will continue to deliver new solutions based on renewable and fossil-free carbon sources, contributing to EU climate, chemicals, and circular economy objectives.
- 2. Ensure access to all types of feedstock to increase uptake of advanced materials:** For the biomass-derived sector to deliver on its full potential, remain competitive in Europe and increase production capacity, fair and secure access to sustainable biomass at competitive prices is essential. The Advanced Materials Act should support access to all types of bio-based feedstocks, support for innovative agricultural and forestry management practices, and the reduction of unnecessary trade and import barriers. As highlighted in the Council Conclusions on 16 December

² [A Strategic Framework for a Competitive and Sustainable EU Bioeconomy](#)

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2025³, primary and secondary biomass is the foundation of a circular bioeconomy, and an important contribution to a prosperous European society.

Ensuring feedstock availability is also closely linked to the principle of cascading use of biomass⁴. Prioritising biomass according to its highest economic and environmental added value—first for food and feed, then for high-value materials such as chemicals and advanced materials, and lastly for energy use – offers environmental and economic benefits. This approach reduces dependency on fossil-primary resource extraction, lowers greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigates environmental impacts associated with waste disposal.

3. **Enable a coherent regulatory framework:** Stimulating market demand for bio-based products will be crucial for a strong industrial bioeconomy in Europe. Setting mandatory bio-based targets for products derived from biomass feedstocks will drive significant market demand for bio-based products, leading to more investment in bio-based industries, which will complementarily foster the competitiveness of the EU bio-based industry.⁵

Policy alignment and simplification remain key to unlock investment in biomass-derived advanced materials. Creating agile, predictable, and coherent regulatory frameworks is essential to support the growth of the sector and attract investment into the European bioeconomy. The Advanced Materials Act should ensure coherence across relevant EU initiatives, including the Bioeconomy Strategy, the Biotech Act II, the Circular Economy Act, the Public Procurement Directive. Strengthening alignment across relevant frameworks will enhance EU competitiveness and resilience while ensuring that industrial growth remains within planetary boundaries, positioning the bioeconomy as both an industrial and a competitiveness strategy for Europe.

BioChem Europe is a sector group of the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) that envisions a future where:

- responsibly produced chemicals derived from sustainably sourced biomass respond to society's growing appetite for circular products that have limited or even positive impacts on the environment and climate
- the related need to increase and support the efficient utilisation of biomass is recognised
- boosting research and innovation is seen as critical for these developments

The biomass-derived chemicals producers, members of BioChem Europe, intend to play their part and forge partnerships to achieve the European ambition to become climate-neutral by 2050.

For more information, visit our website: <https://www.biochem-europe.eu/>

³ [Europe's Environment 2030 - Building a more climate resilient and circular Europe - Council conclusion](#)

⁴ [BioChem Europe: Supporting a strong cascading use principle for biomass - Biochem Europe](#)

⁵ [BioChem-Europe-position-on-Market-pull-measures-19.03.2025-1.pdf](#)

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