

BioChem Europe position paper on Public Procurement

Public procurement represents approximately 14% of the EU's GDP and is therefore a powerful lever for driving sustainable production and consumption patterns. As the EU advances its objectives under the European Green Deal, the Circular Economy Action Plan, and climate neutrality targets, public procurement policies must play a more decisive role in accelerating the uptake of sustainable, low-carbon, and bio-based solutions.

Strengthening EU Public Procurement to Prioritise Sustainable and Biomass-Derived Products

Governments and public institutions can use their significant purchasing power to drive demand for circular and low-carbon materials, including biomass-based chemicals. Creating a predictable minimum demand for sustainable products is needed to support Europe's industrial transition and to stimulate innovation, enhance competitiveness, and sustain economic growth.

Demand-side policies are therefore urgently needed to underpin the business case for Europe's transition towards low-carbon and circular production. While public procurement represents a key instrument in this regard, such policies should ultimately extend beyond procurement alone to ensure a coherent and enabling framework for sustainable markets¹.

Biomass-derived chemicals and materials in (Green) Public Procurement

Biomass-derived chemicals and materials are key in the deployment of sustainable materials in the EU. 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.²

BioChem Europe call for action:

1. Market pull measures, such as bio-based content targets

Stimulating market demand for bio-based products is essential for a strong and competitive industrial bioeconomy in Europe. Setting mandatory bio-based targets for products derived from biomass feedstocks will drive significant market demand, encourage investment in biomass-derived industries, and

¹ [BioChem Europe position on Market Pull Measures - Biochem Europe](#)

² [Industry-position-on-biogenic-carbon-accounting-in-PEF-final-version.pdf](#)

BioChem Europe

Rue Belliard 40 – Boite 15 – 1040 Brussels - Belgium

Tel: +32 2 436.93.00 - mail@cefic.be

A sector group of Cefic 

European Chemical Industry Council - Cefic aisbl

EU Transparency Register n°64879142323-90



strengthen the competitiveness of the EU biomass-derived sector. In coherence with technological neutrality, dedicated mandatory targets should recognise contributions from all biomass-derived products as part of the transition towards climate neutrality³.

To support biowaste collection and tackle pollution issues, for specific applications public procurement policies should also promote the adoption of biodegradable/compostable products.

2. Green Public Procurement policies

Green public procurement (GPP) policies can support strategic investment and help secure the supply of critical technologies, products and services. By leveraging public purchasing power, GPP enables governments and public institutions to foster innovation, economic growth, and the transition to low-carbon and circular production in Europe. Such policies should be based on environmental performance criteria, including circular material use (biomass-derived, recycled, or CCU-derived), low-carbon performance (e.g. Product Carbon Footprints), life-cycle assessments, and recognised certifications, as appropriate for the specific product category. GPP criteria should also take into account market realities, strategic industrial policy objectives, and socio-economic considerations.⁴

3. Policy alignment and coherence

The development of sustainability criteria for public procurement must be coordinated and coherent across relevant initiatives (i.e. Circular Economy Act, Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation, Industrial Accelerator Act, Advanced Materials Act). Policy alignment is key to unlock investment in biomass-derived materials. Agile, predictable, and coherent regulatory frameworks are needed to support sectoral growth and attract investment into the European bioeconomy, while enhancing EU competitiveness and resilience and ensuring that industrial development remains within planetary boundaries.

4. Recognition of sustainably sourced feedstock for biomass-based chemicals and materials

For the biomass-derived sector to deliver on its full potential, remain competitive in Europe, and scale up production capacity, fair and secure access to sustainable biomass at competitive prices is essential. (Green) Public Procurement policies should recognise and support access to a wide range of bio-based

³ [The Bioeconomy Strategy: a framework to industrialise the EU bioeconomy - Biochem Europe](#)

⁴ Read more here: [Cefic contribution to the Circular Economy Act consultation](#)

BioChem Europe

Rue Belliard 40 – Boite 15 – 1040 Brussels - Belgium

Tel: +32 2 436.93.00 - mail@cefic.be

A sector group of Cefic 

European Chemical Industry Council - Cefic aisbl

EU Transparency Register n°64879142323-90



feedstocks – including first generation biomass that meet clearly defined and robust sustainability criteria⁵. This would also encourage innovative agricultural and forestry management practices, and reduce unnecessary trade barriers and import restrictions that limit feedstock availability.

BioChem Europe is a sector group of the European Chemical Industry Council (CEPIC) 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 utilization of biomass is recognized
- 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>

⁵ [BioChem-Europe-position-on-Sustainability-Criteria-February-2025.pdf](#)

BioChem Europe

Rue Belliard 40 – Boite 15 – 1040 Brussels - Belgium

Tel: +32 2 436.93.00 - mail@cefic.be

A sector group of Cefic 

European Chemical Industry Council - Cefic aisbl

EU Transparency Register n°64879142323-90

