



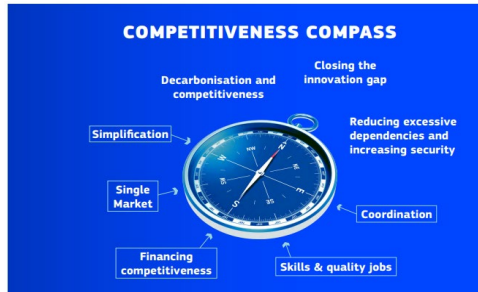
# *Bioeconomy – Wool Valorisation*

## *CDG Sheepmeat and Goatmeat*

*8 October 2025*

DG AGRI-B2 - Coordinator for Bioeconomy

# New Bioeconomy Strategy – a driver for green growth



- Position the EU in the **rapidly expanding bioeconomy market**
- **significant growth potential** in bio-based materials, biomanufacturing, biochemicals, and agri-biotech sectors
- **reduce our reliance on fossil fuels** and **improve the economic perspectives of our rural areas**

**Competitiveness Compass, January 2025**



- **improve resource efficiency** and to tap the **significant growth potential of bio-based materials** substituting fossil-based materials, and related industries.
- **reduce dependencies** on imported raw materials.
- lay down **priorities for manufacturing and using biomaterials**, and for retaining them as long as possible in the economy

**Clean Industrial Deal, February 2025**



- **diversification** of value streams and **valorisation of farm residues**
- strengthening the **role of primary producers** in the value chain and generating new jobs in the **rural areas**
- reducing dependencies on imported raw materials and **fertilisers** with **recycled nutrients**

**Vision for Agriculture and Food, February 2025**

# Interplay with other policy areas

**Industrial  
Decarbonisation  
Accelerator Act**

**Biotech Act**

**Circular  
Economy Act**

**Life Science  
Strategy**

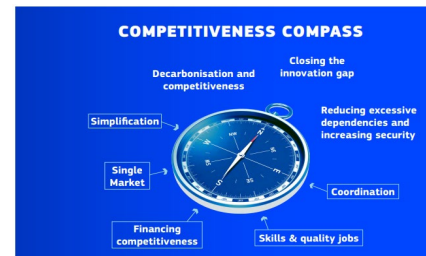
**Bioeconomy  
Strategy**

**Start up and  
Scale up  
Strategy**

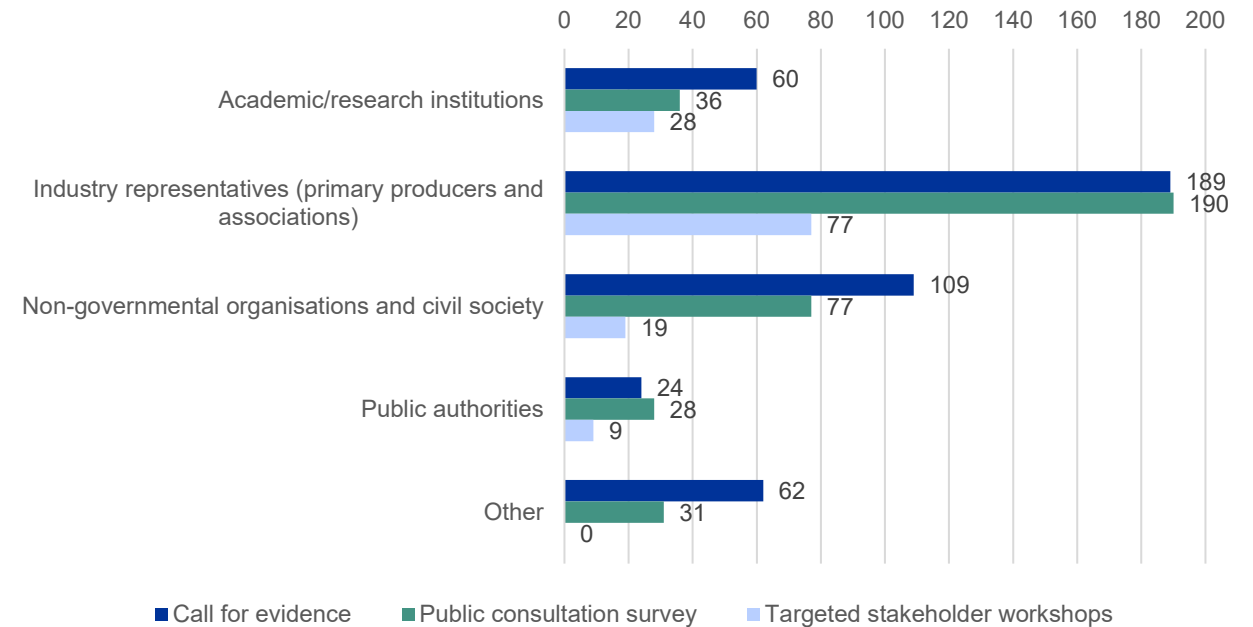
**Ocean Pact**

**Vision for  
Agriculture and  
Food**

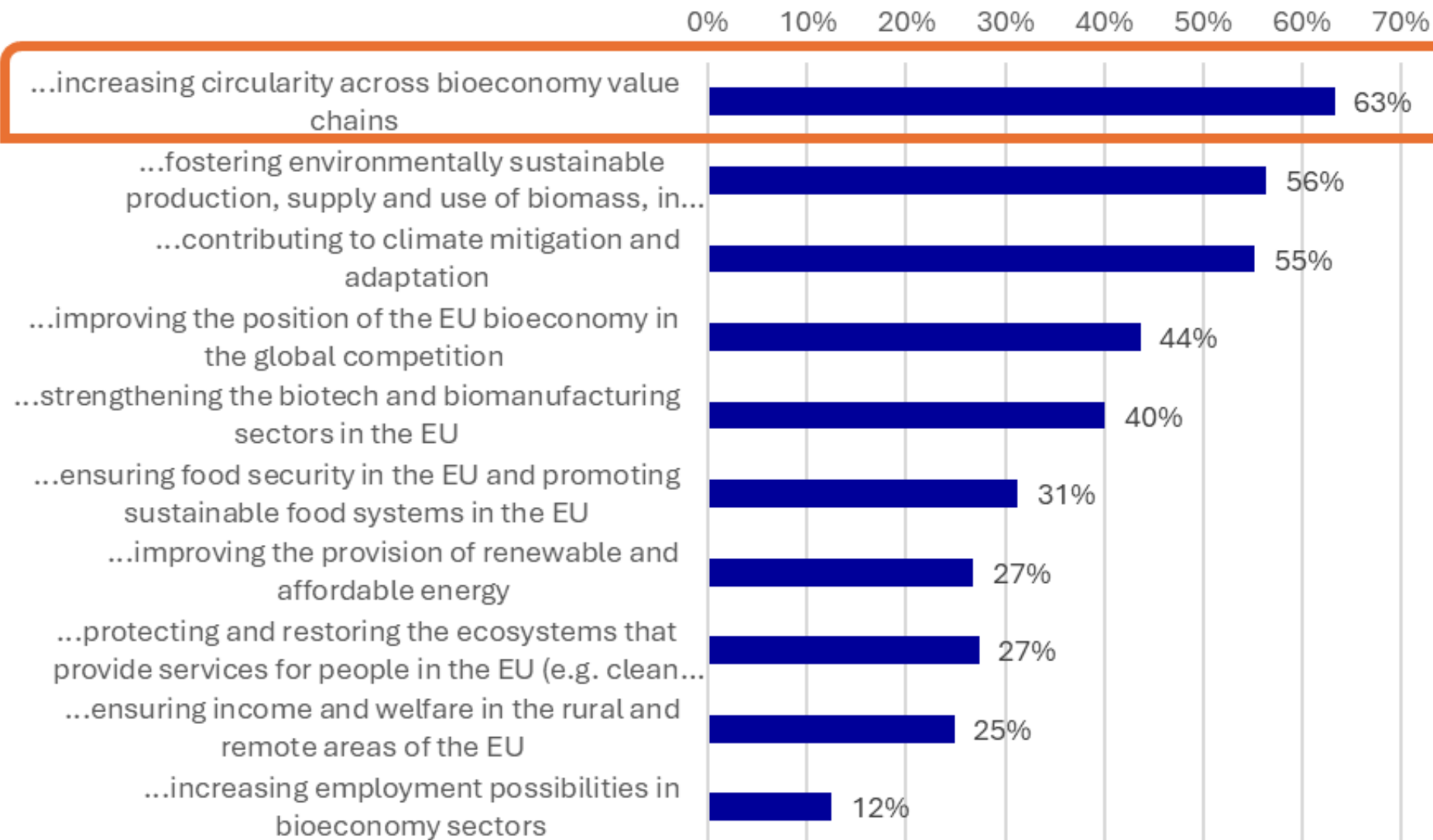
**Clean Industrial  
Deal**



# Consultation activities: Big interest of industry and NGO's



## What should be the main objectives of the new EU Bioeconomy Strategy (multiple answers possible)?



# Main **challenges** raised per pillar of the Bioeconomy Strategy

## Innovation & investment

- Innovation gaps and scaling challenges, for ex. from R&D to industrial applications
- Regulatory barriers, for ex. complexity & fragmentation of regulations across EU
- Market barriers, for ex. unfair competition from fossil-based products



## Level-playing field for lead markets

- Creating market demand & enhancing biomass use efficiency
- Cascading principle – prioritisation of high-value applications
- Improving waste management
- Importance of regional collaboration



## Sustainable Supply

- Sustainability criteria and certification
- Competition for biomass and land use
- Complex sustainability frameworks & traceability requirements
- Lack of sustainable supply



## EU's Global Leadership

- Importance of international partnerships and trade
- EU should position itself as a global leader in green diplomacy and bioeconomy, with more active role in international forums





# EU Bioeconomy potential Lead Markets

## *Key sectors for sustainable supply markets*

- Agriculture and food sectors
- Forestry
- Aquaculture - “blue biomass”
- Chemical industry

## *Creating demand for more value from less resources*

- Packaging sector
- Bio textiles and fibres industry
- Construction and buildings materials sector
- Chemicals industry (biopolymers, biofertilizers)

# Stakeholder reported wool related challenges

The Bioeconomy Strategy is much about valorizing agricultural by-products, optimizing circularity, recognizing the role of bio-genic products in substituting fossil-based materials, and supporting farmers to invest and participate in new business models and value chains. In stakeholder dialogues during the preparation process for the bioeconomy strategy, several issues have already been put forward:

- **Investment in first processing of raw wool** is an important point to look at when developing innovative value chains. The CAP offers specific instruments to support farmers or cooperatives in their investment projects.
- **Life cycle analysis and environmental footprint calculation** methods are important tools to provide consumer information and help stimulate demand. It is important participate in industry lead methodology developments for textiles, that valorize the non-fossil properties of wool and adequately take into account biodiversity benefits of extensive sheep grazing.
- **For circular and innovative uses of raw wool**, e.g. as fertilizer, existing EU animal by product legislation allows for local exceptions. In this context, the exchange of good practice across Member States can help to promote knowledge and common understanding.

## Focus Group 'Innovative and sustainable ways to strengthen the role of farmers in revitalising the European wool value chain'



- November 2025 – spring 2026
- A temporary group of 20 experts
- **Main objectives:** to share good practices, address knowledge gaps, and develop practical and research-oriented recommendations
- **Key question to address:** How can the role of farmers be strengthened in revitalising and achieving a comprehensive European wool value chain that encompasses both traditional and innovative products, while establishing stronger links with the industry and consumers?

[Focus Group 'Innovative and sustainable ways to strengthen the role of farmers in revitalising the European wool value chain' | EU CAP Network](#)

# EU CAP Network workshop

## 'Circular bioeconomy – valorisation of forest by-products'

### Kouvola, Finland 26-27 March 2025

#### Aim of the workshop was to explore:

- innovative approaches to wood processing and utilising forestry by-products: logging and sawmill-residues, conifer needles, tannins, resins, etc.
- advanced integration of forest biomass in energy systems (biochar, syngas), biorefineries, bioplastics and biobased chemicals

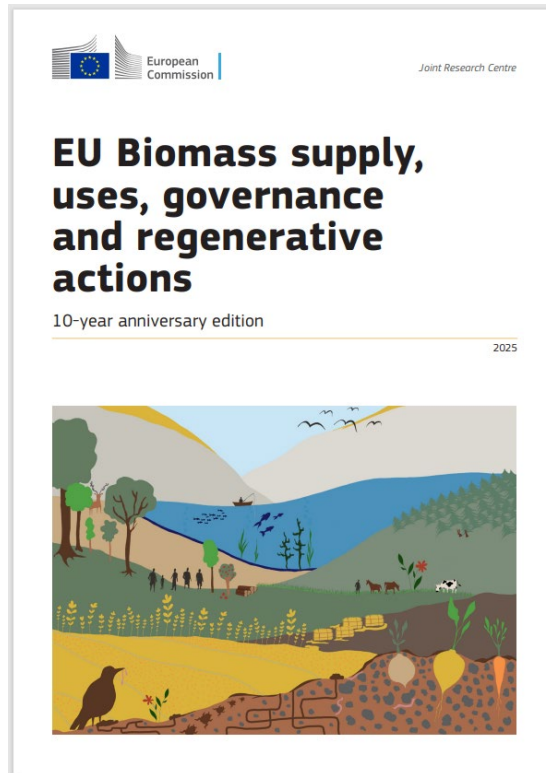
80 participants from 23 Member States, including forest owners, researchers, advisors, industry, and others

#### Focus Groups and workshops in next work programme July 2025-June 2026:

- “Innovative and sustainable ways to strengthen the role of farmers in revitalising the European wool value chain” (FG)
- “Forestry and forest health: new and emerging pests and diseases” (FG)
- “Innovative on-farm energy production systems” (FG)
- “Proximal and remote sensing in agriculture and forestry”
- “Innovative solutions for water resilience in agriculture”
- “Adapting to climate change: New market opportunities through crops alternatives”

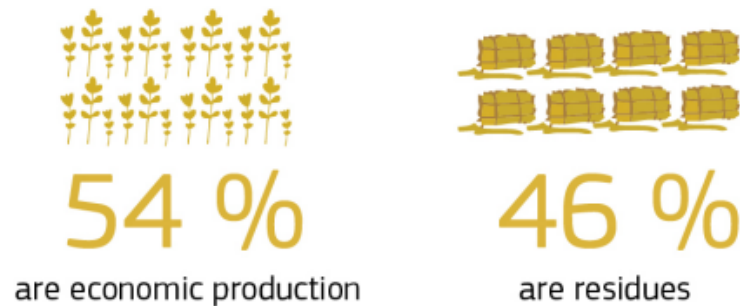
<https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu>

# New JRC Biomass Report 2025



## EU-27 agricultural biomass production

Total annual agricultural biomass production in the EU-27: 921 Mt D.M. yr<sup>-1</sup>



Source: JRC  
Biomass Report 2025

Thank You !