

Anchoring of the bioeconomy in the coalition agreement for the 20th legislative period - a brief assessment

In its coalition agreement for the 20th legislative period, the Federal Government states that the UN's 17 global sustainability goals are a guideline for its policy. The preservation of biodiversity is to be regarded as a task for humanity and an ethical obligation, the achievement of climate protection goals is to be given top priority, and the entire agricultural sector is to be aligned in its diversity with the goals of environmental protection and resource conservation. The Federal Government wants to establish a **sustainable, future-oriented agriculture**¹ in which farmers can operate in an economically viable manner while **reducing the use of pesticides**² which does justice to the environment, animals and the climate. At the same time, the economy should be supported in securing a **sustainable supply of raw materials**, regional value chains strengthened and rural structures preserved. At the same time, the **loss of biodiversity is** to be stopped and domestic **raw material extraction** facilitated and ecologically oriented.³ This should pave the way for a **post-fossil age**.⁴

The implementation of these selected goals underscores the need to think about possible implementation strategies not sectorally, but across value chains and networks. This requires cross-thematic and cross-sectoral approaches to solutions in order to preserve the natural resource base, protect and promote biodiversity and rekindle inventiveness and innovation. In the sense of a coherent research and development policy that strives for a transformation towards climate-neutral prosperity in a social-ecological market economy, the bioeconomy should be set up as a cross-sectional task in a **mission-oriented interlocking and networking of programme lines, strategies and departmental research**.⁵

1 Klimaschutz in einer sozial-ökologischen Marktwirtschaft., Z. 719 - 725

2 Naturschutz und Biodiversität, Z. 1174

3 Rohstoffe, Lieferketten und Freihandel, Z. 1039-1040

4 Präambel, Z. 57

5 Zukunftsstrategie Forschung, Z. 549-553

It is therefore to be welcomed that, in addition to initial specific approaches such as the financing of the bioeconomy by the state development bank KfW⁶ or the comments on biotechnology^{7,8}, important aspects and objectives of the bioeconomy have been taken into account in the following cross-sector and cross-industry future fields⁹ in particular:

- Modern technologies for a competitive and climate-neutral industry (e.g. steel and basic materials industry) in Germany
- Ensuring clean energy production and supply
- References to climate protection, climate impacts, biodiversity and sustainability, the Earth system and corresponding adaptation strategies as well as a sustainable agricultural and food system
- technological sovereignty

Selected goals of the coalition agreement, for whose implementation a sustainable bioeconomy is of particular importance, are highlighted below.

In a decade of **investing in the future**¹⁰ it is important to preserve what sustains us and to protect **our resources**. The bioeconomy is highly relevant to UN Sustainable Development Goals 2, 3, 6-9, 11-15 and can make many concrete contributions to the implementation of these goals: In an energy system that will be predominantly powered by the sun, wind and **bioenergy**¹¹ in the future, this includes the **conversion of remaining climate-damaging fossil raw materials, products and processes to more sustainable alternatives**.

In the area of the **circular economy** promoted by the German government, the bioeconomy consistently strives for the cascading material use of biogenic raw materials that remain bound in the product life cycle for as long as possible. Substances in wastewater that are isolated through biotechnological processes, for example, can also be raw materials that should be used in the sense of the circular economy.¹² Hereby, the bioeconomy can and wants to show a way into a consistent way of doing business that is in harmony with nature and the environment and in which organic farming can be integrated into an entire **bio-value chain**.¹³

6 Start-up-, Gründungs- und Innovationsförderung Z. 908ff

7 Innovation und Transfer, Z. 592

8 Zukunftsstrategie Forschung, Z. 569

9 Zukunftsstrategie Forschung, Z. 555

10 Klimaschutz in einer sozial-ökologischen Marktwirtschaft Z. 713-714 and Z. 737

11 Klima, Energie, Transformation, Z. 1865ff

12 Wasserschutz, Z. 1288

13 Landbau, Z. 1456ff

In particular, the **fight against species extinction** requires high attention and political action.¹⁴ Stable cultivation systems must be developed for the consistent protection of species. The use of pesticides, which is nevertheless necessary, should be significantly reduced, e.g. through digital applications and efficient application techniques, and the development of nature- and environmentally-friendly alternatives to chemical-synthetic pesticides as well as integrated pest management should be promoted. At the same time, the **breeding of climate-resistant plant varieties** must be promoted.¹⁵ With alternatives such as biologicals, the bioeconomy can already offer a variety of knowledge-based contributions to more sustainable land management.

The creation of real world laboratories and Freedom Zones Act pushed by the government, which provides uniform and **innovation-friendly framework conditions for** real world laboratories and enables new freedom to test innovations,¹⁶ are an opportunity to breathe new life into the knowledge-based bioeconomy and open up **new business models for** regional value chains.¹⁷

14 Klimaschutz in einer sozial-ökologischen Marktwirtschaft, Z. 719 - 725

15 Landbau, Z. 1473

16 Start-up-, Gründungs- und Innovationsförderung, Z 933ff

17 Klimaschutz in einer sozial-ökologischen Marktwirtschaft, Z. 719 - 725