



Feedback on the roadmap for the Bioeconomy Progress Report „European bioeconomy policy: stocktaking and future developments“

The Bioeconomy Council is an independent and neutral body, advising the German Federal Government on the implementation of the national bioeconomy strategy and promoting public debates on the bioeconomy.

The implementation of the bioeconomy in Europe will provide solutions for coping with pressing societal, ecological, and economical challenges, such as climate change, increasing need for healthy food, replacement of fossil-based with renewable resources, and the preservation of ecosystems, amongst others. Comparable with digitalisation, the bioeconomy can bring about a profound change in society and industry when it works within the planetary boundaries. European policy is required to actively shape this transformation process. The bioeconomy should be regarded as a central innovation and growth engine that enables a sustainable way of life and a green economy and should be funded accordingly.

The German Bioeconomy Council considers it essential to advance the implementation of the bioeconomy to support the achievement of the goals of the European Green Deal. The bioeconomy has the potential to play a significant role in the transformation of the economy towards greater sustainability. Many examples of actual implementation of the bioeconomy underscore this fact. The focus should be on the range of benefits of the bioeconomy for climate protection and climate adaptation, for food security, resource conservation and the preservation of biodiversity. To achieve this, national and European activities must be coordinated. In addition, the interfaces of these activities with national, European and global strategies (e.g. CBD, the Paris Agreement, the European Green Deal, the “Fit for 55 policy package” and sustainability strategies to implement the 2030 Agenda) must be included in a consolidated strategy, including the monitoring of the bioeconomy. Only in this way, the bioeconomy can be implemented to the benefit of all people and nature and economic systems.

The industrial bioeconomy will play an important role in the development towards a green and competitive industry. When fossil raw materials are replaced by bio-based materials, this promises innovative manufacturing processes, new products, and a strengthening of competitiveness for almost all industrial and service sectors. Considering "food first" and potential economic and environmental impacts on countries of the Global South, bioeconomy offers more than a sustainable resource base. The use of biological (processes and biotechnological) innovations can lead to more efficient and low-emission production processes. Therefore, in the Council's view, the roadmap should place an even stronger focus on learning from nature and learning from biological processes, as an essential and central aspect of bioeconomy.

The German Bioeconomy Council welcomes the plan to close linear value chains toward circular value chains and -networks within the framework of a circular economy. The bioeconomy already offers many examples and technologies for achieving this.



In addition, coherent governance action is important. A holistic transformation process that addresses all people and reaches the centre of society requires a systemic approach in which economy, society and ecology are given equal consideration. Governance must therefore closely coordinate all these concerns. A stronger policy integration among all governance levels in the EU is needed. It is important to consider sustainability and social acceptance when discussing about the cooperation of the economy, research, agriculture, the health industry, the financial market and development policy, economic efficiency, and technical feasibility of processes and products.

Finally, participatory processes must be strengthened so that the European population supports the implementation of bioeconomy. Therefore, the EU and its member states need to foster the dialogue with their citizens to take into account their views and wishes on the development of future societies and the role bioeconomy for a liveable future.