

## DECLARATION

# **The Biosolutions Industry is Key to Competitiveness, Geopolitical-Resilience, and Sustainability – Europe must act now to keep it on European soil**

As the global race for biosolutions heats up, Europe finds itself at a critical juncture. While China, the United States and other regions are rapidly advancing their biotech and biomanufacturing industries through strategic investments and streamlined regulations, Europe has the slowest regulatory system among our competitor regions, risking its position as a leader in this sector. If swift action is not taken, Europe will birth groundbreaking bio-companies that will only grow and flourish elsewhere.

We, the European Biosolutions Coalition, representing 11 industry organizations across the continent, call on the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council to act fast to create the necessary conditions for the biosolutions sector to flourish on European soil. The Commission must make sure to land a bold and broad EU Biotech Act - to boost competitiveness, speed up the green transition and enhance European self-reliance if we are to harness the transformative potential of biosolutions. Applying biotechnological solutions at scale can help meet the growing needs of a rising global population — by boosting food production, enabling more sustainable industrial processes across multiple sectors, and reducing environmental pressures to preserve biodiversity.

Biosolutions offer new options to produce ingredients and materials, expanding the technological possibilities available in areas ranging from asphalt to cosmetics. With the help of biosolutions, we can minimize waste and our environmental impact while maximizing economic, geopolitical, and environmental benefits. They can strengthen Europe in key areas, by developing sustainable supply chains and contribute greatly to achieving a circular and biobased economy. These biological industrial solutions leverage amongst other technologies, enzymes, microorganisms, and precision fermentation to drive sustainable growth, resilience, and economic prosperity.

Biosolutions are biological products rooted in biotech. This involves the use of living organisms, bacterial cultures, pheromones, and similar elements for specific applications and products. They are integrated into various sectors' manufacturing processes and serve as final products that aid in sustainable transformations, such as emission reductions. Examples of products include complementary proteins, bio-based ingredients, bio-pesticides, bioplastics, enzymes, probiotics, food cultures, and fermentation solutions for feed and food.

The McKinsey Global Institute estimates that up to 60 percent of the world's raw materials can be created biologically, significantly lowering the world's dependence on fossil oil. But currently, biosolutions are being held back in Europe. They are regulated by various regulatory regimes that are not designed for biosolutions. Biosolutions companies cannot scale up efficiently. They suffer from an uneven playing field in comparison with competitors in Asia and North America, lack financing opportunities and meet very long approval processes. Without decisive action, Europe risks foreign migration of its most innovative biotech firms. To reclaim our leadership in this evolving sector, Europe must face its challenges with urgency. By addressing regulatory inefficiencies, enhancing strategic investments, and prioritizing biosolutions within industrial policy, our continent can secure a competitive edge and fuel sustainable economic growth.

## We highlight three critical areas in need of immediate attention

**1. Regulatory Acceleration:** Europe's regulatory processes for biosolutions are currently the slowest in the world and follow old school legislation that is not fit for the bio revolution or the future. In Europe it takes two to three times as long to get new products approved as in the US and China. This is hampering our competitiveness, and it must be changed. Reforming these frameworks to better match the efficiency seen in the US, Canada, and China while keeping the European quality and security, is crucial for unleashing Europe's innovative potential. We call on the European Commission, the Parliament, and the Council to bring forward the simplification of REACH, which should result in refocusing the action of the agencies – both ECHA and EFSA – on the most hazardous substances and freeing sufficient resources for the registration of innovative and more sustainable molecules.

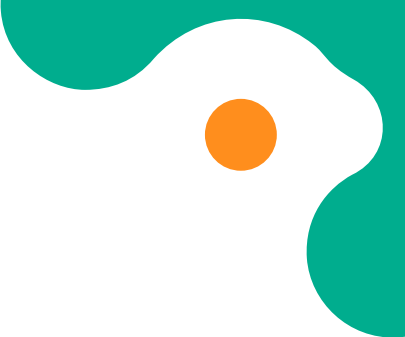
**2. Strategic Investment:** Substantial investments are vital to scaling biosolutions beyond pharmaceuticals throughout Europe. Investing in technologies like biomaterials can enable the development of innovative solutions such as bio-degradable silk made from spiderweb and mycelium-based packaging that replaces plastics or other materials like lightweight composites for aerospace interiors or asphalt, reducing oil dependency and creating sustainable, value-generating infrastructure. Europe must make sure that financing is available and easy to access for both small and large businesses. This also means ensuring that Europe does not create barrier for investments or frameworks that are not fit for business realities.

**3. Prioritizing Biosolutions:** Recognizing biosolutions as strategic priorities within EU industrial policy will accelerate the shift to a biobased economy, further reduce fossil fuels, dependency of import for agriculture, and position Europe as a leader in sustainability and resilience. According to McKinsey report "Harnessing the economic and environmental benefits of advanced biotechnology," advanced biotechnology has the potential to generate up to \$1 trillion in economic value globally over the next 15 years, through to 2040, cut CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions by 3-4 gigatons—or more than 5 percent of global emissions from 2022—and repurpose between 2-4 million square kilometers of land, roughly the size of India. Additionally, it could save 250-500 billion cubic meters of water, equivalent to three to six times the annual flow of the Nile. Considering these transformative examples Europe must not overlook:

**1. Precision Fermentation for Complementary Proteins:** This technology facilitates high-quality protein-production without livestock, drastically cutting greenhouse gas emissions tied to traditional animal agriculture and supplementing the world's need for protein. Implementing this could significantly reduce Europe's carbon footprint while bolstering food security.

**2. Enzyme-Based Waste Conversion:** Enzymatic processes effectively transform agricultural waste into valuable by-products like biofuels and bioplastics or biochemicals addressing markets like food, feed, aromas and perfumes, lubricants, material sciences.

**3. Biomaterials for Sustainable Infrastructure:** Development of biomaterials can pave the way for oil-free infrastructure, strengthening the economy and protecting the environment simultaneously. Implementing these solutions supports Europe's transition to a circular economy, reduces waste emissions, and fosters new industrial opportunities. The urgency for action is undeniable. Europe must embrace the potential of biosolutions to solidify its role as a global leader in sustainability and innovation. By accelerating registration processes, making finance and infrastructure available and identifying biosolutions as key components of our industrial strategy, we can cultivate economic growth and resilience for generations.



We, the European Biosolutions Coalition, call on the European Commission, the Parliament, and Council to enact a bold and comprehensive European Biotech Act that champions biosolutions as the cornerstone of our competitiveness and green transition. Let us turn setback into comeback and seize this opportunity to lead the biorevolution and build a brighter, more sustainable future for a stronger Europe.

### **The partners of the European Biosolutions Coalition, May 2025**

- *Fabrice Le Saché, Vice President, MEDEF, France*
- *Elena Sgaravatti, Vice President Federchimica Assobiotech, Italy*
- *Gernot Haas, Director of European Affairs, Federation of Austrian Industries*
- *Focco Vijselaar, CEO, , The Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers, VNO-NCW*
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- *Adelina Dabu, Head of Public Affairs, Concordia Employers' Confederation, Romania*
- *Rasa Uždavinytė, EU & Government Affairs, Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists*
- *Sofie Carsten Nielsen, Director, Confederation of Danish Industry and the European Biosolutions Coalition*

*The European Biosolutions Coalition is an initiative established by several industry organisations, representing a substantial amount of the companies working with biosolutions in Europe, to elevate the prominence of biosolutions on the European agenda. The Coalition is dedicated to advocating for the green transition, fostering more intelligent approaches within the industry, and creating enhanced prospects for companies working with biosolutions in the EU.*

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