

APAG welcomes the Commission's Biotechnology & biomanufacturing Initiative

Brussels, 27th March 2024 – APAG, a sector group of Cefic, welcomes the Commission's recent Communication "Building the future with nature: Boosting Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing in the EU" that identifies these technologies are part of the solution to address societal and environmental challenges in the EU.

As a key sector of the European Bioeconomy, APAG Members have been pioneers in biorefining and converting vegetable oils and rendered animal fats into bio-based ingredients for products such as paints, detergents, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, candles, and many more. APAG strongly believes that biotechnology and biomanufacturing are key enablers of the European Green Deal objectives and that they reinforce EU's bioeconomy industrial dimension.

Given the oleochemistry's crucial role in supporting the green transition¹, our sector will continue to be key driver of the circular economy and EU's competitiveness. Therefore, the review of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy in 2025 should account for the societal, environmental and economic challenges and tackle regulatory bottlenecks.

APAG applauds the Commission plans to simplify and streamline the EU legislation and address regulatory fragmentation and obstacles at both, EU and national levels.

The review of Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) approach (scheduled for 2025) and standardisation methods are key steps to ensure a fair comparison between fossil-based products and bio-based products.

APAG fully supports the development of the EU Biotechnology Act under the next Commission mandate, however we would like the next Commission to take into consideration:

- the assurance of **undistorted access to raw materials**
- the introduction of **bio-based content targets in key product legislation**
- the implementation of the **'cascading use principle'**
- a fair comparison between bio-based and fossil-based products, by **reviewing the PEF methodology**

¹ [Oleochemical-Green-Transition-January-2024.png \(1414x2000\) \(apag.org\)](#)

