



Wednesday March 18th, 2026

## ELO welcomes the Council's conclusions on the EU Bioeconomy Strategy

*Brussels, 18 March 2025* – Following the adoption of the Council conclusions on the new EU Bioeconomy Strategy on 17 March, the European Landowners' Organization (ELO) welcomes the strong recognition by Member States of the strategic role of farmers and forest owners in a sustainable bioeconomy.

ELO welcomes the Council's recognition of the bioeconomy as a **driver of sustainability, innovation, green growth, and jobs, and of the primary sector's** role in ensuring a sustainable biomass supply while safeguarding food security, rural livelihoods, biodiversity, soil health, and water quality. We particularly support the emphasis on the forest-based bioeconomy, including wood and non-wood products, as essential for sustainable growth and endorse the recognition of forest owners and farmers as key actors in securing supply while respecting Member States' competences.

The removal of overly strict references to the cascading principle is a positive step, and the reaffirmation that it should remain a **guiding framework** provides a **strong basis for encouraging flexibility and innovation across bio-based value chains**. Biomass should prioritise long-term carbon storage in products, while retaining flexibility for energy use where appropriate and locally justified.

ELO strongly supports the Council's call to **remove regulatory barriers, reduce administrative burden and ensure coherence across EU legislation**, while preserving environmental objectives. **A predictable and supportive implementation framework is essential to avoid overlaps and complexity that could undermine sustainable land management.**

In this context, ELO noted the Council's emphasis on ensuring that sustainability criteria for biomass are effectively implemented under current EU legislation, alongside the need for appropriate market monitoring. ELO welcomes the approach outlined in the Council conclusions, **in particular the position that no additional or mandatory sustainability requirements should be introduced.**

ELO also upholds the Council's **encouragement to integrate bioeconomy objectives into national and regional strategies**, while ensuring that increasing biomass demand does not undermine biodiversity, nature restoration, food security or the long-term productive capacity of primary sectors.

At the same time, **ELO has reservations about the heavy focus on centralised monitoring and modelling of biomass flows.** We maintain that policies on biomass and land use should not rely solely on remote sensing or centralised data, but must also take into account local, ground-level perspectives. Overreliance on satellite-based or modelled information risks misrepresenting the realities of land use on the ground. Policies should prioritise practical, hands-on solutions and ensure the active involvement of primary producers, whose knowledge is vital for sustainable and context-sensitive decision-making.

ELO further underlines the importance of **fair competition with imports and strengthened EU bioeconomy sovereignty**, welcoming the Council's support for strategic international partnerships, innovation, and market access for EU sustainable bio-based technologies, and encourages cooperation with partner countries to build resilient and competitive bioeconomy hubs across Europe.

Additionally, improved access to markets for biocontrol solutions and bio-based fertilisers through simplified and harmonised rules will be key in delivering on the Bioeconomy Strategy. These efforts should include the Food and Feed omnibus and a potential RED revision.

Finally, ELO welcomes the shared vision of a **sustainable bioeconomy by 2040**, driven by innovation, investment and regional engagement, and supports the Council's emphasis on education, training and awareness-raising across all stakeholders.



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## About the European Landowners' Organization (ELO)

The European Landowners' Organization (ELO) is a leading voice representing the interests of landowners, rural entrepreneurs, and rural land managers in Europe. ELO promotes sustainable land management practices, fosters innovation, and advocates for the recognition of landowners' crucial role in shaping Europe's landscapes and rural areas.

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