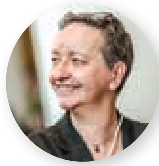
European Parliament breakfast on bioeconomy

On 9 July 2026, ELO organised a breakfast meeting in the framework of the European Parliament's Biodiversity, Hunting and Countryside Intergroup. Hosted by MEP Stefan KÖHLER in Strasbourg, to discuss how the bioeconomy can strengthen Europe's rural resilience and strategic autonomy, with a particular focus on the contribution of the Horizon Europe PathFinder project.

Delphine DUPEUX
Director of EU Biodiversity Policy and Parliamentary Affairs, ELO



Anne MARCHADIER
Business Development Director, ELO

MEP Norbert LINS with ELO delegation in Strasbourg

Opening the event, MEP Stefan KÖHLER (EPP, AGRI/ENVI) stressed that the bioeconomy must deliver tangible economic benefits for those managing the land, becoming an additional source of income for farmers and forest owners while enhancing Europe's competitiveness and strategic autonomy. Echoing positions he has consistently defended in Parliament, he called for less regulation and bureaucracy and urged policymakers to move from discussion to implementation through practical, farmer-friendly policies.

The PathFinder project presented its vision for a bottom-up European Forest Monitoring System combining National Forest Inventories with remote sensing to deliver harmonised, annual and high-resolution forest data. Such a system would provide a stronger evidence base for policymaking on carbon stocks, biomass, forest health and the sustainable use of forest resources. While technically feasible, its success will depend on stronger governance, Member State commitments to share data and closer institutional coordination.

Speaking on behalf of the General Association of Wheat Producers (AGBP), David VINCENT highlighted the strategic role of the cereal sector in Europe's bioeconomy, arguing that sustainably produced biomass should be recognised as a key resource for achieving the EU's climate, energy and competitiveness objectives. He emphasised the contribution of first-generation biofuels to greenhouse gas reductions and the circular economy through valuable co-products, and called for an ambitious Bioeconomy Strategy that encourages investment, expands markets for sustainable biomass and recognises farmers as central actors in Europe's bio-based economy.

Representing Familienbetriebe Land und Forst, Max von ELVERFELDT argued that the bioeconomy must be built around the farmers and forest owners who manage Europe's land. Given the long investment cycles in forestry, he stressed the need for predictable and coherent policies, regulatory certainty and functioning markets that encourage investment, create added value in rural areas and fully integrate land managers into bio-based value chains.

Hinse BOOSTRAT (Bayer) underlined that a strong bioeconomy is essential to decarbonise sectors such as construction, transport, chemicals and energy while supporting agricultural adaptation to climate change. He argued that policy incentives will be needed to overcome the competitive advantage of fossil-based products and called for a more pragmatic regulatory framework enabling farmers to access innovative technologies, alongside open international trade to secure sustainable biomass supply.

The European Bioeconomy Industry Consortium stressed that the Bioeconomy Strategy should provide a strong and ambitious framework to strengthen Europe's competitiveness, resilience and strategic autonomy. EBIC called for greater regulatory coherence across EU legislation and policy initiatives to create a predictable and enabling framework for innovation, investment and market uptake. They stressed the need to scale up industrial deployment and remove barriers to commercialisation so that innovative biological solutions can contribute to more resilient and competitive agriculture.

Participants agreed that fossil-based products continue to enjoy significant economic advantages, while bio-based solutions are often held back by fragmented and sometimes contradictory EU legislation. A recurring message was that the bioeconomy is politically encouraged but too often constrained in practice, underlining the need for a more coherent, pragmatic regulatory framework that supports innovation, investment and large-scale deployment.

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