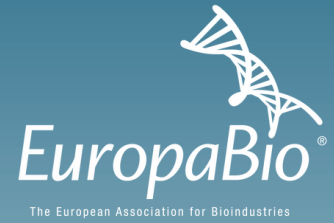


# BIOTECHNOLOGY IS A CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY: ROADMAP TO A GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE AND RESILIENT EU



Biotechnology's designation as a **critical technology by the EU** is recognition of its role within the **transformation of traditional industrial ecosystems** towards a healthier and greener future, with competitiveness and security as a key feature.

With a global race underway, the winners will be those regions and companies that are positioned as market leaders in the use of biotech at scale. Building on its strong innovation base and existing biotechnology capacity, the EU is well-positioned to lead this race and secure a **globally competitive and resilient economy powered by biotech innovation**.

EuropaBio welcomes the Initiative on Boosting Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing in the EU whilst calling for ambition and urgency in its implementation. This ambition must be reflected in the **2024-2029 EU strategic and legislative agendas** and next **EU budget** to support the path to a globally competitive and resilient EU. EuropaBio calls on the Commission, Parliament and Council to take **ownership of the Initiative at the highest political level with dedicated structures** within each institutions driving the success of this Initiative.

As recognised by the COMPET Council in its May 2024 Conclusions, biotechnology integration and application is an **elemental part of EU industrial policy**. It provides a strong engine for **growth and competitiveness** across EU countries, regions, and industries, including agri-food, health, defence, manufacturing, and consumer products. Biotech also **enhances EU autonomy and resilience** through providing novel and substitute products and materials in critical sectors, complementing EU efforts to improve autonomy for critical raw materials.

## EUROPABIO'S POSITION

EuropaBio and its members are committed to work in partnership with all relevant stakeholders to guarantee the success of this Initiative. EuropaBio has identified the following three key goals in support of the studies and actions in the Initiative:

1. Ensuring a holistic approach for **EU legislation to be a key enabler for development, deployment and scale up** of biotech by fostering an attractive environment for R&D into biotech products for Europe and the world.
2. **Boosting investments into biotech industries** in the EU to ensure innovators can create, scale-up, and grow into global industry leaders.
3. **Fostering visibility, recognition, and delivery for European biotech innovation** across the EU to support the development of globally competitive biotech industries that benefit economies, societies, and citizens.

## Goal 1: EU legislation as a key enabler for development, deployment and scale up of biotech

- Addressing regulatory barriers across legislations relevant to biotechnologies in line with Action 1 of the Initiative, and ensuring EU legislative proposals, including those pending adoption, are coherent and have a positive impact on the sustainability and growth of the biotech industries.
- Evaluating and proposing measures, in line with Actions 1 and 2, to address market fragmentation and barriers across the Single Market to boost market access for industrial and health biotech products.
- Implementing Action 6 (fair comparison between fossil and bio-based products) and exploring other measures such as the development of bio-based content requirements to stimulate market demand.
- Launching an evaluation, in line with Action 1, of the impact of the EU GMO framework and related legislations on the development of biotech products with a view to developing product-specific legislation adapted to scientific and technical progress.
- Reinforcing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) in the next multiannual financial framework to support biotech and the other critical technologies.

## Goal 2: Boosting investment into biotech industries in the EU

- Reinforcing and championing the protection of intellectual property for biotechnology innovation to address shared health, climate, and environmental challenges.
- Evolving the sustainable finance Taxonomy framework to make the distinction between biotech and conventional processes in line with their environmental footprint.
- Creating a true ecosystem for European investments by improving frameworks to incentivise investment and facilitating access to capital markets for biotech, especially for SMEs.
- Leveraging targeted EU funding to maximise private investments for biotech and other critical technologies at all stages of development, in line with Action 4 of the Initiative.

## Goal 3: Fostering visibility, recognition, and delivery for European biotech innovation

- Promoting and strengthening the translation of academic research into biotechnologies towards marketable products in EU, including through public private partnerships and publicly funded programmes, where appropriate.
- Establishing an EU Biotech Hub, in line with Action 2 of the Initiative, to better support scale-up and ease of navigating regulations. Regional Innovation Valleys, or similar structures, can support biotech innovators and be integrated into a network of European biotech hubs.
- Prioritising the recognition and delivery of industrial and health biotech products based on their high societal, economic, and environmental added-value.
- Exploring mechanisms to facilitate integration and transfer of research, innovation, and know-how across and within the four designated critical technologies in line with Action 5.
- Building on the European Skills Agenda to train and attracting a skilled workforce for the twin transitions and growth of critical technologies, including by facilitating the coordination of national or regional programmes.