

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000119/25  
to the Commission  
Elsi Katainen (Renew)  
(14 January 2025)**

*Subject:* Inclusion of fibre-based and bio-based materials in the forthcoming circular economy act

The transition to a circular economy is crucial for achieving sustainability and reducing environmental impacts in the EU. Fibre-based and other bio-based materials play a significant role in this transition, due to their renewable nature and their high potential recyclability. Ensuring the effective collection and recycling of these materials is essential for maximising their contribution to the circular economy.

In light of the upcoming circular economy act:

1. The harmonisation of collection systems should be done consistently and efficiently in the Member States. How does the Commission plan to incorporate specific measures and strategies to boost the collection and recycling of fibre-based and other bio-based materials in the circular economy act?
2. Targeted incentives and regulatory adjustments should be considered to promote the use of bio-based materials. What initiatives will the Commission introduce to support the development and integration of bio-based materials within the circular economy framework, over traditional non-renewable alternatives?

Submitted: 14.1.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission  
(21 March 2025)**

As set out in the Political Guidelines <sup>(1)</sup>, the Circular Economy Act will help create market demand for secondary materials and a Single Market for waste, notably in relation to critical raw materials.

The Circular Economy Act is further detailed in the Competitiveness Compass <sup>(2)</sup> and in the Clean Industrial Deal <sup>(3)</sup>. It will serve to catalyse investment in recycling capacity and encourage EU industry to effectively substitute virgin materials and to reduce the landfilling and incineration of used raw materials.

Ahead of its expected adoption by end-2026, it will be impact assessed in accordance with the Better Regulation principles <sup>(4)</sup>, which includes public and stakeholder consultations. It is thus too early to comment on its specific contents.

The Commission recognises the importance of effective separate collection and well-functioning recycling systems for the supply of secondary raw materials, including bio-based materials, both in terms of their quantity and quality. The Commission further recognises the strong interlinkages between the bioeconomy and the circular economy.

As regards to the promotion of bio-based materials, the Commission intends to adopt an updated Bioeconomy Strategy <sup>(5)</sup> by the end of 2025. This initiative will *‘improve resource efficiency and to tap the significant growth potential of bio-based materials substituting fossil-based materials, and related industries’* <sup>(6)</sup> and *‘promote the more circular and sustainable production, use and consumption of biological resources’* <sup>(7)</sup>.

The Commission supports the development and testing of innovative solutions in the areas of collection, recycling and novel sustainable materials including biobased ones through dedicated research and innovation funding under Horizon Europe <sup>(8)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Political Guidelines for the Commission 2024-2029, [https://commission.europa.eu/about/commission-2024-2029\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/about/commission-2024-2029_en)

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/priorities-2024-2029/competitiveness\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/priorities-2024-2029/competitiveness_en)

<sup>(3)</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/clean-industrial-deal\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/clean-industrial-deal_en)

<sup>(4)</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-making-process/better-regulation\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-making-process/better-regulation_en)

<sup>(5)</sup> [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/environment/bioeconomy/bioeconomy-strategy\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/environment/bioeconomy/bioeconomy-strategy_en)

<sup>(6)</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/clean-industrial-deal\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/clean-industrial-deal_en)

<sup>(7)</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Commission work programme 2025: Moving forward together: A Bolder, Simpler, Faster Union, COM(2025) 45 final.

<sup>(8)</sup> [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en)