

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002355/26
to the Commission
Katri Kulmuni (Renew)
(9 June 2026)**

Subject: Recognising renewable bio-based materials as circular solutions

Based on the available information regarding the Commission's upcoming proposal for a circular economy act, the act will focus heavily on secondary raw materials and less on bio-based materials. Renewable and bio-based materials should qualify as circular materials in the same way as recycled materials when developing measures to boost demand for circular materials and products. This would also provide an important link between the circular economy act and the EU's bioeconomy strategy.

I see a risk that the two main initiatives are being developed in silos, where the circular economy act focuses only on waste and secondary raw materials and the bioeconomy strategy, including the forthcoming biotech act II, focuses on bio-based inputs.

With the above in mind:

1. How will the Commission take renewable bio-based materials and products into account in the upcoming EU initiatives, especially in the circular economy act?
2. How will the Commission ensure that renewability and renewable bio-based materials are specifically considered in the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation ⁽¹⁾?
3. How is the Commission ensuring that the Product Environmental Footprint methodology development is aligned with the bioeconomy strategy, including the crediting of carbon removal and storage for bio-based materials and products containing biogenic carbon, and in contrast to fossil-based alternatives?

Submitted: 9.6.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(25 August 2026)**

Bio-based materials and products are at the core of the Strategic framework for a competitive and sustainable EU bioeconomy ⁽¹⁾. The Commission is implementing this framework through different initiatives, including the upcoming Biotech Act II ⁽²⁾, the Circular Economy Act (CEA) ⁽³⁾, and dedicated work on bio-based plastics under the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation ⁽⁴⁾.

These initiatives will support the uptake of bio-based materials where they offer the best environmental and economic performance, and will also improve the collection, treatment and use of biowaste.

Ensuring that products placed on the EU market become more sustainable over their whole life cycle is a core objective of the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) ⁽⁵⁾.

The Commission will carry out an impact assessment for each priority product ⁽⁶⁾ and propose the most effective and proportionate set of measures for the ESPR 2025-2030 work programme.

Aspects concerning sustainable sourcing and circularity could be included where relevant. A technology- and material-neutral approach will ensure recognising the benefits and impacts of different materials, including bio-based materials.

In parallel, environmental footprint (EF) methods ⁽⁷⁾ are being revised to acknowledge the differences between biobased and fossil materials, such as carbon uptake ⁽⁸⁾.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/1781 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for sustainable products, amending Directive (EU) 2020/1828 and Regulation (EU) 2023/1542 and repealing Directive 2009/125/EC (OJ L, 2024/1781, 28.6.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1781/oj>).

⁽¹⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/bioeconomy-strategy_en.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/17394-Biotech-Act-II_en.

⁽³⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/circular-economy_en.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2025/40 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2024 on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC, OJ L, 2025/40, 22.1.2025.

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1781 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for sustainable products, amending Directive (EU) 2020/1828 and Regulation (EU) 2023/1542 and repealing Directive 2009/125/EC, OJ L, 2024/1781, 28.6.2024.

⁽⁶⁾ E.g. for apparel textiles and furniture.

⁽⁷⁾ https://green-forum.ec.europa.eu/green-business/environmental-footprint-methods_en.

⁽⁸⁾ E.g. in terms of carbon uptakes and biogenic carbon emissions.