

EC Initiative on Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing: Principles for an impactful Europe

POSITION PAPER

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A global technology and market race is underway within biotechnology and biomanufacturing. Successful regions will lead innovation, manufacturing and trade across multiple sectors, with competitive and sustainable next generation economies and strong global trade presence.

Europe has long been recognised as a leader in biotechnology research and innovation. However, its transition into industrial application and manufacturing at scale is proceeding at a slower pace than other regions, with consequences already felt for citizen and economic benefit, investment, competitive global positioning, green transition targets and supply chain security.

The EU Initiative for Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing is a unique opportunity for the EU to build on its strong research and innovation base towards clear industrial, societal and market targets.

Five core principles should underpin goals for Europe's approach to biotechnology and biomanufacturing, not only within the proposed Initiative, but integral the European Union's implementation of industrial strategy across sectors. Principles should be embedded into consideration of legislations, ensuring convergence, rather than divergence, for innovation across frameworks.

1. Recognise societal and economic benefits from biotechnology and biomanufacturing, with a predictable and coherent policy framework throughout value chains that enables growth and transformation across sectors.
2. Ensure competitive market access for biotechnology and biomanufactured products in Europe and allow European companies to be active contributors into globally resilient supply chains, with informed citizen confidence, including clear regulatory pathways for innovative advances.
3. Unlock the full potential of Europe's Single Market for biotechnology processes and biomanufacturing, including for people, goods, services, and capital.
4. Create Investment frameworks for biotechnology and biomanufacturing, including access to risk capital within Europe, to facilitate multi-scale production facilities and biorefineries and achieve pan-European capacity.
5. Apply Innovation Principles within R&D priorities for biotechnology (including digital and AI advancement), enhance intellectual property protection and develop skills to accelerate industrial transition and production through innovation.

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Signatories



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