

Eurogas feedback on a European Partnership for a circular bio-based Europe

Eurogas welcomes the commitment of the Commission to set up European Partnerships to address the main challenges facing the EU in its energy transition. We believe that the Commission made sensible choices in defining the scope of these partnerships.

A European Partnership for a circular bio-based Europe is all the more relevant as it would help bring about a shift in the business model of key European economic sectors and boost the emergence of new innovative value chains. The competitiveness of the European economy is at stake.

Eurogas supports the establishment of a Joint Undertaking (option 2) as firm financial commitments and a clear institutional structure have proven to be efficient in the first Joint Undertaking on bio-based industries.

The impact assessment rightly underlines the importance in developing the necessary synergies between various sectors, technologies and solutions. We believe that this is paramount to achieving EU objectives in terms of agricultural, energy and energy transition policy and objectives. Considering this and in line with the ongoing Joint Undertaking on bio-based industries, Eurogas believes that a focus on specific value chains would be welcome:

- Waste-based products, like renewable gases, are essential value chains to support. Such a partnership would come in support of the objectives that the Commission may set in its upcoming legislative package on gas.
- Renewable gases from agricultural waste can help preserve or restore the economic dynamics of rural areas, by adding value to the agricultural production. Waste can be a source of income for farmers and therefore make them less dependent on subsidies and enable them to invest more to remain competitive and shift towards more sustainable business models.
- Renewable gases can also be produced from waste in urban areas, which can act as “sandboxes” for certain technologies and certain production processes; furthermore these can increase local resilience in terms of energy consumption.
- In terms of the objectives of the energy transition and GHG emission reduction, the development of bio-based products and processes such as anaerobic digestion carry the additional advantage of facilitating the decarbonisation of otherwise difficult sectors to decarbonise; namely the agricultural sector.
- Finally, industrial waste can be recovered and transformed, thus fostering industrial symbiosis.

Eurogas remains available to provide more input into the Commission’s impact assessment on this partnership.