

New forum to accelerate the development of future foods

Biosolutions Forum+ will accelerate the development of sustainable foods and climate solutions in Denmark and the EU through smarter and faster regulation. Biosolutions are expected to deliver enormous CO₂ savings, create millions of new jobs in Europe, and generate billions in exports, but only if we seize the opportunity.

An accelerating climate crisis, rising food prices, and a growing global population have created an urgent need for new solutions.

Biosolutions have the potential to provide the sustainable foods of the future, significantly reduce CO₂ emissions, and at the same time become a new growth engine, generating exports and thousands of new jobs.

That is why the Alliance for Biosolutions, under the Danish Chamber of Commerce, is now launching a new forum for biosolutions, *Biosolutions Forum+*, with a particular focus on improving framework conditions for biosolutions companies nationally and in the EU. The initiative is developed in collaboration with Dr. Jur. Linda Nielsen, former rector of the University of Copenhagen and is supported by the Novo Nordisk Foundation.

There is much work to be done. Lengthy approval processes in the EU are costing companies dearly and often mean that especially small and newly established firms never get their innovative products approved for the EU market before being forced to shut down.

“It’s a major problem that the EU is currently hindering the development of future foods, ag-tech and innovative green technologies. We need to take off gloves, speed up the approval process, and make sure regulation keeps pace with the speed of innovation. We need new and smarter ways to regulate innovative solutions – while maintaining high safety standards,” says Anne Lerche, Head of Biosolutions at the Danish Chamber of Commerce and Managing Director of Alliance for Biosolutions.

Until now in 2025, only **eight new products** were added to the EU’s novel food list. The path from application to approval can take up to 3-5 years before a new food or ingredient passes through the regulatory eye of the needle – compared to 1-2 years in the United States, benefiting consumers. The situation is even worse for biocontrols, where the approval process in the EU can take up to 8-10 years, as these products are categorized alongside traditional pesticides.

Biosolutions are expected to become a central driver of growth and employment – both in Denmark and globally. The slow and rigid EU regulatory framework therefore poses a serious threat to Europe’s competitiveness, self-sufficiency, and green transition.

In the worst case, companies may simply abandon the European market altogether. However, reaching agreement among all EU member states on a more flexible legislative process is difficult. That is why close cooperation between experts, companies, and authorities is crucial to pave the way for a new regulatory paradigm shift in EU legislation and to develop concrete legal recommendations.

“All products placed on the European market must be safe. At the same time, we actually have legal tools that can help us regulate more intelligently, so that the EU does not miss out on growth, jobs, and new innovative solutions. One practical example is the use of regulatory sandboxes, where we can nationally fine-tune the mechanisms within the larger regulatory system and thereby give new, sustainable products a faster route to market. I look forward to collaborating with companies, researchers, and civil society on how we can pave the way for more innovation-friendly EU regulation,” says Dr. Jur. Linda Nielsen.

The new Biosolutions Forum+ will, during the period 2025–2027, support the Danish Government’s Entrepreneurship Agreement from 2024, which has allocated 30 million DKK over four years for the establishment of regulatory sandboxes in Denmark for key strongholds such as biosolutions.

The forum will be open to all interested stakeholders wishing to work with the concept of regulatory sandboxes within biosolutions.

Facts:

- The [Net-Zero Industry Act](#) requires all EU member states to establish a national contact point for regulatory sandboxes for net-zero technologies. In Denmark, this will be implemented by the Danish Business Authority (Erhvervsstyrelsen).
- According to the [Entrepreneurship Agreement](#), the Danish government aims to strengthen entrepreneurship in national areas of excellence by establishing regulatory sandboxes, e.g. within biosolutions and green energy technologies.
- The government has established a [growth team](#), expected to deliver recommendations for a national biosolutions strategy by the end of the year, which is anticipated to include a track on national and EU regulation.
- According to analysis by ADC (2025), the global economic impact of biosolutions is expected to nearly double by 2035 to around EUR 778 billion.
- At the same time, the number of jobs in Europe is expected to grow from 1.84 million in 2024 to 4.5 million, with Danish companies highlighting regulation as a key barrier to scaling and participating in this growth.

For more information, please contact the Danish Chamber of Commerce Press Office at +45 7022 8010.

Overview of the Biosolutions Forum+ Steering Committee

The following individuals are personally appointed to the forum’s steering committee (steerco) for the period 2025–2027 (a total of 36 months):

- Linda Nielsen, Dr. Jur., (Chair)
- Laila Pinheiro, Director, Syngenta
- Peter Steen Mortensen, Head of Public Affairs, Novonesis,
- Susanne Palsten, CEO, Algiecel
- Christian Brix Tillegren, Director, BioInnovation Institute
- Marie Louise Bojsen Lendal, CEO, Think Tank Frej
- Svend Christensen, Professor, University of Copenhagen (KU)
- Andreas Worberg, Head of Center for Biosolutions, Technical University of Denmark (DTU)
- Jakob Møller, Head of Department, University of Southern Denmark (SDU)