

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Environment
Unit B.1 — Bioeconomy and Sustainable Materials
Jointly with the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU)

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

European Bioeconomy Investment Deployment Group

Membership of Financial Institutions and Investment Actors

Date of publication:	7 May 2026
Deadline for applications:	17 May 2026
Legal basis:	COM(2025) 960 — Strategic Framework for a Competitive and Sustainable EU Bioeconomy ; Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085, Article 56 (CBE JU)
Contact:	ENV-BIOECONOMY-STRATEGY@ec.europa.eu DEPLOYMENT.GROUP@cbe.europa.eu Contact person: Agata Kotkowska, Deputy Head of the B1 Bioeconomy and Sustainable Materials Unit

1. Background and objectives

The European Commission adopted the *Strategic Framework for a Competitive and Sustainable EU Bioeconomy* (COM(2025) 960) in December 2025, setting out a comprehensive vision for accelerating the transition from fossil-based to bio-based materials, chemicals, and products. The Strategy identifies the mobilisation of private and institutional investment as a critical enabler of this transition and calls for the establishment of a **European Bioeconomy Investment Deployment Group** (hereafter “the Deployment Group”) to serve as the EU’s dedicated platform for investment coordination in the bioeconomy.

The Deployment Group is established under the auspices of DG Environment, in close association with DG Research and Innovation, and with analytical and operational support from the European Investment Bank Group. The Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU) provides the secretariat function, in accordance with Article 56 of Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085.

The objectives of the Deployment Group are to:

1. Facilitate the mobilisation of private investments for scaling up and deploying bio-based solutions to market;
2. Help further develop and deploy the suite of financial instruments (e.g. blended finance, risk sharing instruments, simplify investment regulations, etc.) that are tailored to the sector’s needs;
3. Optimise access for financing opportunities by innovative companies, especially SMEs;
4. Advise on policy measures and regulatory improvements needed to de-risk bioeconomy investments.

2. Purpose of this call

This open call for expression of interest invites financial institutions and investment actors to apply for membership in the Bioeconomy Investment Deployment Group.

The consolidated list of members will be subject for formal approval by the CBE JU Governing Board. Confirmation letters will be issued by the European Commission afterwards.

3. Mandate and scope of work

Members of the Deployment Group will be expected to contribute actively to the following workstreams:

- Project pipeline development: proposing and co-developing a framework and database to drive project bankability in bioeconomy.
- Investment advisory: providing expert advice on the design and calibration of EU financial instruments, to maximise their leverage effect for bioeconomy scale-up.
- Task force participation: contributing to thematic task forces on topics such as blended finance architecture, EU Taxonomy alignment for bio-based activities, and lead market creation.
- Policy feedback: channelling market intelligence and practitioner insights back to the Commission to inform future legislative and regulatory initiatives.

Membership is **non-remunerated**. Members participate in their institutional capacity. The Deployment Group is expected to meet in plenary twice per year, with task forces organised via virtual meetings on a more regular basis. Participation in at least one plenary per year is required to maintain active membership.

4. Eligible applicant categories

This call is addressed to the following categories of institutions:

#	Category	Description
A	European-level financial institutions	EIB, EIF, EBRD, and equivalent European IFIs.
B	National Promotional Banks and public financial institutions	NPBs and public investment banks of EU Member States
C	Private commercial banks	Commercial banks with demonstrated sustainability, green finance, or circular economy lending portfolios.
D	Venture capital and corporate venture capital	VC funds, corporate VCs, and growth equity investors active in bioeconomy, industrial biotechnology, or sustainable materials.
E	Institutional investors	Pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, insurance asset managers, and other institutional investors with ESG or sustainability mandates.

Note: Companies, industry associations, clusters, accelerators, and advisory organisations are not eligible for core Deployment Group membership under this call. These entities may be invited to participate as ad hoc experts in task force meetings and matchmaking events on a case-by-case basis.

5. Application requirements

Interested institutions are invited to submit the following:

1. A formal expression of interest signed by an authorised representative, stating the applicant's interest in joining the Deployment Group and identifying the representative(s) who would participate.
2. An institutional profile (maximum one page) summarising the applicant's mandate, geographic scope, relevant investment portfolio in the bioeconomy or adjacent sectors (circular economy, industrial biotechnology, sustainable chemistry, renewable materials), and any current engagement with EU financial instruments

Applications should be submitted by email to both:

European Commission, DG Environment ENV-BIOECONOMY-STRATEGY@ec.europa.eu
 CBE JU Deployment Group Secretariat DEPLOYMENT.GROUP@cbe.europa.eu

The subject line should read: *“European Bioeconomy Investment Deployment Group — Expression of Interest — [Name of Institution]”*

6. Selection criteria and process

Applications will be assessed by the European Commission (DG Environment, in coordination with DG Research and Innovation) with the support of the CBE JU Programme Office, taking into account the following criteria:

- Relevance of the applicant’s institutional mandate and investment portfolio to the bioeconomy transition.
- Contribution to balanced representation within the Deployment Group in terms of institutional type (categories A–E above), geographic coverage (ensuring adequate representation from all EU regions), and thematic expertise.
- Capacity and willingness to participate actively in at least one plenary session and one task force per year.

The selection is non-competitive: all eligible institutions that meet the above criteria and contribute to balanced representation could be admitted.

7. Indicative timeline

Date	Milestone
17 May 2026	Deadline for submission of expressions of interest
19-21 May 2026	Assessment of applications and selection of members
22 May	Invitation letters issued by the European Commission
10 June 2026 (save a date)	First plenary meeting of the Bioeconomy Investment Deployment Group on 10.06.2026 at 14.00 until 17.30 at the Bio Innovations Europe - 10-11 June 2026 Industrial biomanufacturing conference in the Haag, Netherlands.

8. Data protection and confidentiality

Personal data submitted in connection with this call will be processed by the European Commission in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council. Data will be used exclusively for the purposes of assessing applications and managing the composition of the Deployment Group. Applicants have the right to access, rectify, and request erasure of their personal data.

Information submitted by applicants regarding their investment portfolios will be treated as confidential and will not be disclosed to third parties without the prior written consent of the applicant.

9. Contact information

For any questions regarding this call, please contact:

European Commission — DG Environment

Unit B.1 — Bioeconomy and Sustainable Materials

Email: ENV-BIOECONOMY-STRATEGY@ec.europa.eu

Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU)

Deployment Group Secretariat

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