**Follow-up to the European Parliament non-legislative resolution towards a strong and sustainable EU algae sector**

1. **Resolution tabled pursuant to Rule 136(5) of the European Parliament's Rules of procedure**
2. **Reference number:** 2023/2547 (RSP) / B9-0233/2023 / P9\_TA(2023)0205
3. **Date of adoption of the resolution:** 11 May 2023
4. **Competent Parliamentary Committee:** PECH Committee
5. **Brief analysis/ assessment of the resolution and requests made in it:**

The resolution is a policy response to the Commission Communication “[Towards a strong and sustainable EU algae sector](https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-11/COM-2022-592_en.pdf)” of 11 November 2022. It addresses all aspects of the development of the algae sector for food and non-food algae application in the EU.

The resolution points out that algae and microalgae can represent an important complementary source of protein in sustainable food production. The resolution contains three calls on the Commission, including a call to consider the untapped potential of algae as a source of protein in its review of the EU protein policy and a call for a more coherent regulatory framework for the algae sector and the provision of adequate funding for the EU algae sector.

1. **Response to requests and overview of action taken, or intended to be taken, by the Commission:**

The Commission welcomes the Parliament’s resolution and agrees with most of its findings.

In line with paragraph 5, the Commission underlines that algae (both macro and micro) can be a valuable source of protein, both for feed and food applications, and thus have the potential to contribute to EU food security. The Commission is performing a comprehensive review of its protein policy, as announced in its 2022 Food Security Communication[[1]](#footnote-1), in line with the mandate given by the European Council in the Versailles Declaration of March 2022. It will build on the 2018 report and it should be adopted during the first quarter of 2024. Its aim will be to investigate all sources of plant-based proteins and it will be as broad as possible, covering both food and feed aspects, as well as novel sources of proteins, including macroalgae and microalgae. The evaluation of priorities for the review will be further developed with stakeholders and Member States in a continuous dialogue during 2023, including with Civil Dialogue Groups on agricultural markets, crops market observatory or other specialised expert groups.

Regarding a more coherent regulatory framework for the sector (paragraph 8), the Commission Communication calls on the Member States’ authorities to simplify national licensing procedures for algae cultivation. The Commission has already started its work to promote this needed simplification. Creating one-stop shops at Member States level is an option that the Commission supports. The Commission will thus issue by the end of 2023 a Guidance document on regulatory and administrative procedures in aquaculture as part of the implementation of the 2021 EU Strategic Guidelines for Aquaculture. This document will aim at providing concrete recommendations to competent authorities in EU Member States to reduce unnecessary administrative burden and costs on aquaculture operators, including those involved in the farming of algae. Furthermore, the Commission is working on a licensing toolkit which will compile general, and country-specific information as well as resources to guide future algae farmers through their licensing process through the stakeholder platform EU4Algae.

The Commission is committed to provide adequate funding for the EU algae sector and facilitate the implementation of speedier authorisation processes in Member States without neglecting other aquaculture-farmed species (paragraph 12). The Commission will ensure that algae are adequately covered in EU funding instruments such as the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, for the part which is directly managed by the Commission. Moreover, the Commission has encouraged the Member States to include algae in their Multiannual National Strategic Aquaculture Plans and into their programmes under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund. Other funds are available under the “EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters” under Horizon Europe, the Circular Bio-Based Europe Joint Undertaking, the Food strand under the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, BlueInvest and others. In this regard, the EU4Algae platform set up by the Commission more than a year ago is already gathering more than 770 stakeholders. It will facilitate access to information on funding available for algae through the consolidation of all the available funding opportunities and featuring open calls.

1. COM(2022) 133 final [↑](#footnote-ref-1)