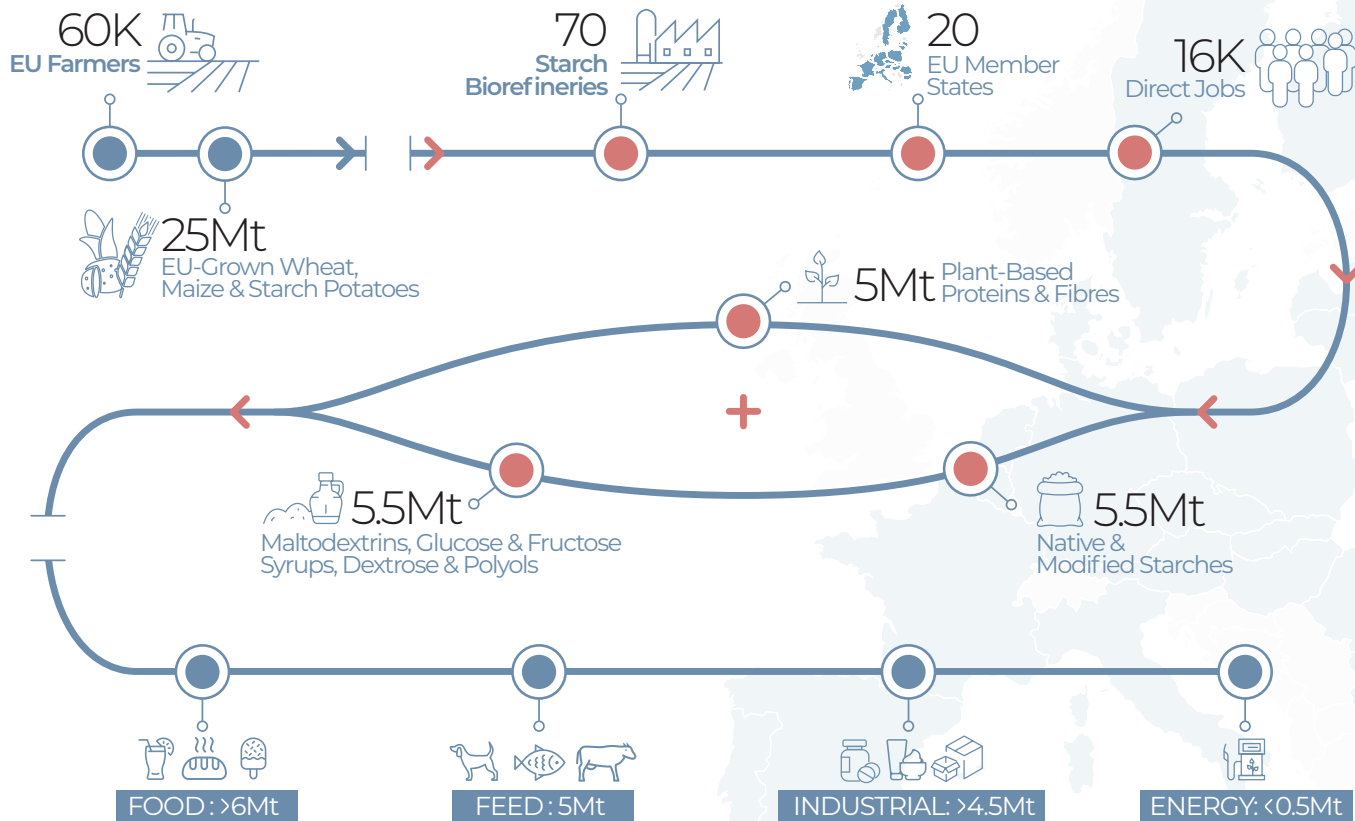




STARCH EUROPE BUILDING GROWTH & **COMPETITIVENESS** POLITICAL PRIORITIES 2024-2029

WHO WE ARE

The starch industry's crucial role at the heart of the value-chain *



HOW WE CONTRIBUTE

The role the starch industry plays in the overall EU industrial landscape

Starch biorefineries are key enablers not only in the transition towards a more sustainable food system, but in the EU achieving its overall sustainability goals. We do this by adding value to EU agricultural raw materials and delivering to all outlets of the EU bioeconomy with near-zero waste.



Starch producers work closely with farmers to help them adopt and implement more sustainable, regenerative agricultural practices



Our plant-based proteins contribute to the diversification of protein sources in the EU



Starch-based ingredients help improve the shelf-life of various food products, thus reducing food waste



Starch is the most common carbohydrate in the human diet and carbohydrates are an essential source of energy for our brains and muscles



Our fibres and polyols, contribute to many healthier and more sustainable final food and healthcare products



Starches and plant-based proteins help provide a vital healthy & nutritious diet for EU livestock



Recycling of paper & cardboard is possible only thanks to starch



Our ingredients provide a key alternative to fossil-based materials in many industrial uses such as bioplastics, biodetergents and many more



In line with its Decarbonisation Roadmap, the industry is working towards a 25% reduction in GHG emissions per tonne of starch by 2030

OUR NEEDS & PRIORITIES

A policy framework that supports our competitiveness and growth

The European starch industry plays a pivotal role in the EU food, feed and industrial sectors providing essential ingredients for a wide range of products.

The industry equally plays a crucial role in supporting rural economies across the EU, sourcing the raw materials it needs from European farmers, and having its plants located in rural areas.

However, the **industry is currently facing significant challenges that threaten its competitiveness and economic sustainability**. The development of a strong EU Industrial policy should be a priority, both to strengthen and increase the resilience of the EU industry, thus allowing us to continue to contribute to EU economic growth, but also to support the transition to more sustainable production and consumption in line with the ambitions of moving towards a more sustainable food system.

The following points are strong priorities for our industry for the next political mandate, to ensure that **together we can build growth and competitiveness**:

- + **A reliable supply of sustainable EU agricultural raw materials at competitive prices**
- + **Financial and policy support to reach decarbonisation targets**
- + **A holistic approach to sustainability**
- + **A supportive EU trade policy**
- + **A predictable regulatory environment**

1. A reliable supply of sustainable EU agricultural raw materials at competitive prices

Agricultural raw material prices are a key component of the sector's competitiveness as they are its biggest input cost. European farmers need support to transition, including access to technological developments such as new genomic techniques, digitalisation, precision farming, and generally more sustainable farming practices.

We would need:

- + **Increased support given to farmers** to help in their sustainability and decarbonisation efforts while maintaining their resilience and competitiveness, and ensuring a fair revenue for them
- + **Maintaining a high level of production of wheat, maize and starch potatoes in the EU**, to ensure availability and affordability of high-quality EU-grown agricultural raw materials for the starch industry

2. Financial and policy support to reach decarbonisation targets

The EU Green Deal has set extremely ambitious decarbonisation targets, but has, thus far, not always matched these targets with either the policy support or financial support needed for their implementation. Financial support for the roll out and implementation of existing technologies, and support for innovation, are both crucial for our energy intensive sector to have the necessary tools to help it achieve its decarbonisation targets.

We would need:

- + **Financial support for the decarbonisation of our industry based on mature and proven technologies** (energy efficiency, electrification, biomass, geothermal energy), as well as the **long-term availability and competitiveness of electricity and biomass** for energy use
- + **Technical innovation support to increase the use of renewable energy and reduce emissions**, thus helping ensure fair market access entry conditions and a focus on domestic innovation
- + A dedicated **EU Food Investment and Resilience Plan** to help our industries manage, and invest for, this transition while remaining financially resilient and competitive

3.

A holistic approach to sustainability

As the EU moves towards a more sustainable food system, it is vital to adopt a holistic view of all the components forming this food system, including those beyond food itself.

One expectation is that demand for plant-based proteins from EU food industry customers will increase. EU starch producers are perfectly placed to help meet this increased demand. This will also inevitably entail the production of more carbohydrates, and a need to find new markets for these additional carbohydrates.

These carbohydrates are well placed to replace fossil-based inputs in non-food applications. This will require a more holistic approach in policy making, notably to help foster a more vibrant EU Bioeconomy.

We would need:

- + Continuing existing **financial support** for the EU Bioeconomy linked to, for example, the EU Green Deal Industrial Plan and Horizon Europe
- + Help, support and **promote the bioeconomy**, as a key building block for a broader sustainable food system, including in research & development and market creation
- + To further the sustainable development and production of **EU-cultivated plant-based protein** sources of sufficient quality and in sufficient quantities
- + The recognition of the **important role of processing in turning our EU-grown cereals and protein crops into plant-based protein ingredients** for sustainable and healthy food and drink products
- + Policy makers should support fact and **science-based policy making** and communication, including recognising the importance of our ingredients to European diets and overall sustainability

4. A supportive EU trade policy

Measures must continue to be taken to guarantee our competitiveness and protect the EU AgriFood chain from international competitors, which are often not subject to the same strict regulatory and sustainability rules as EU producers.

We would need:

- + Support for the principles of a **rules-based international trade system**
- + In the absence of a level playing field with international competitors, **the sensitivity of the EU starch industry** and its crucial role in guaranteeing EU food security must be taken into account in **EU FTA negotiations**

5. A predictable regulatory environment

The starch industry is a capital intensive one. Investment is for the long-term, making a predictable regulatory environment a pre-requisite. EU-wide solutions must always be sought whenever possible, to ensure that the integrity of the EU Single Market be safeguarded.

We would need:

- + **A balanced approach between the diverse sustainability goals** to remain the norm. This requires the continued reliance on a proportionate risk-based approach which encourages technological development
- + **The safeguarding and advancing of the Single Market** through the continued emphasis on harmonized EU-wide solutions including for implementation of rules
- + Ensuring that the principles of **proportionality, adequate transition times, and full stakeholder input** in the regulatory process in order to guarantee a predictable regulatory environment



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