Resolution towards a strong and sustainable EU algae sector

2023/2547(RSP) - 11/05/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament resolution adopted a resolution towards a strong and sustainable EU algae sector.

The resolution welcomed the Commission communication entitled ‘Towards a strong and sustainable EU algae sector’ and agreed that there is untapped potential in this sector. While overall demand for algae is expected to increase in the coming years, an additional 85 000 jobs could be created in the EU if the projected increase in algae production is achieved. It is noted that algae could also be used for animal and fish feed, pharmaceuticals, packaging, cosmetics and biofuels, among other purposes.

However, Parliament considered that the sector needs to develop in a way that does not affect the equilibrium of marine ecosystems and should avoid repeating the same environmental mistakes that have previously been made on land. A more coherent regulatory framework for the sector is needed, encouraging Member States to set up ‘one-stop shops’ for actors interested in starting or expanding algae farming operations.

A growing EU algae sector could contribute to the achievement of the EU’s objectives in terms of developing a blue economy, which would not only provide us with new low-carbon food products and material, but also contribute to ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and nutrient absorption, as well as reducing pollution. More EU funds should be mobilised for research purposes.

Lastly, Parliament welcomed the Commission’s intention to present a specific initiative to support algae consumption in the EU.