



# EU Algae Initiative

**“Towards a Strong and Sustainable EU Algae Sector”**

**COM(2022) 592 final**

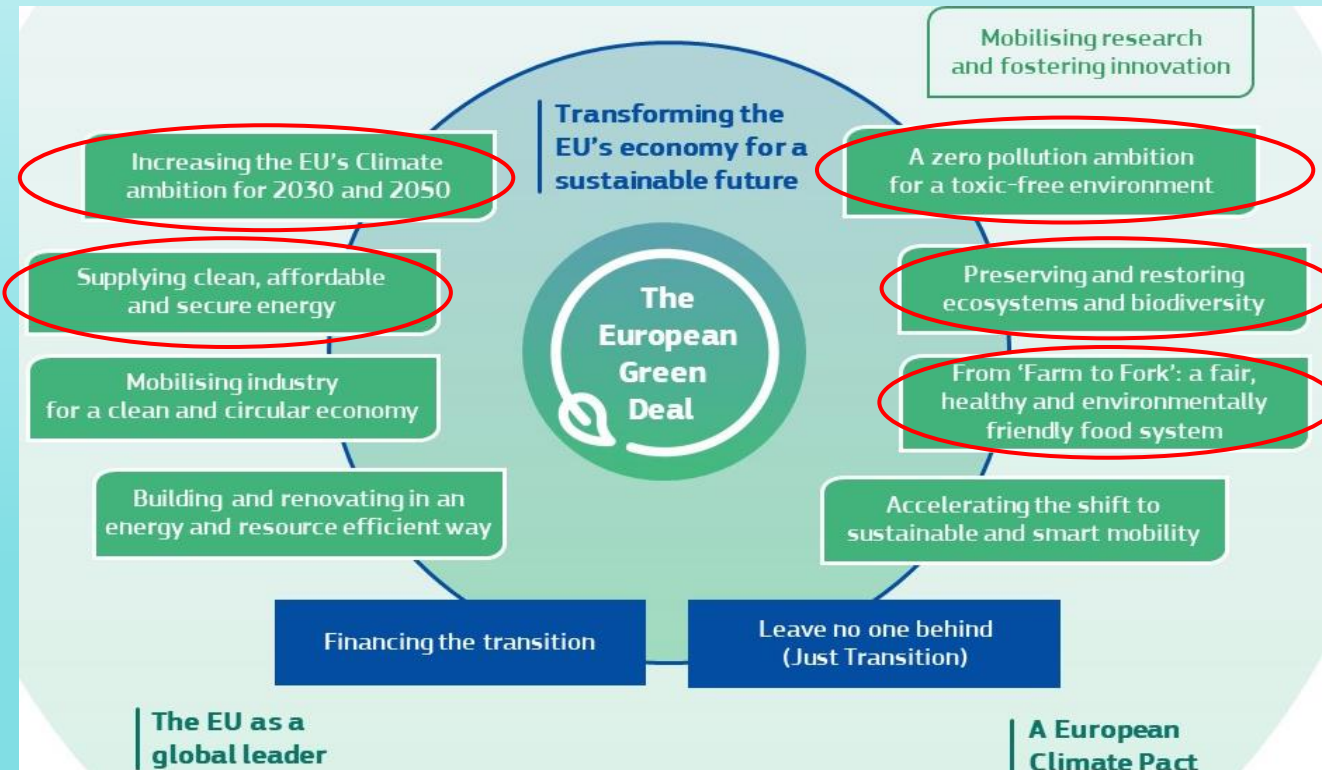
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*Aquaculture Advisory Council – WG 3*  
*31 January 2023*

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*DG MARE – European Commission*

# Algae in EU policy context

- Seaweed as an alternative protein source – Farm-to-Fork
- Sustainable blue Economy Strategy
- EU Sustainable Aquaculture Strategic guidelines



A new vision for EU aquaculture



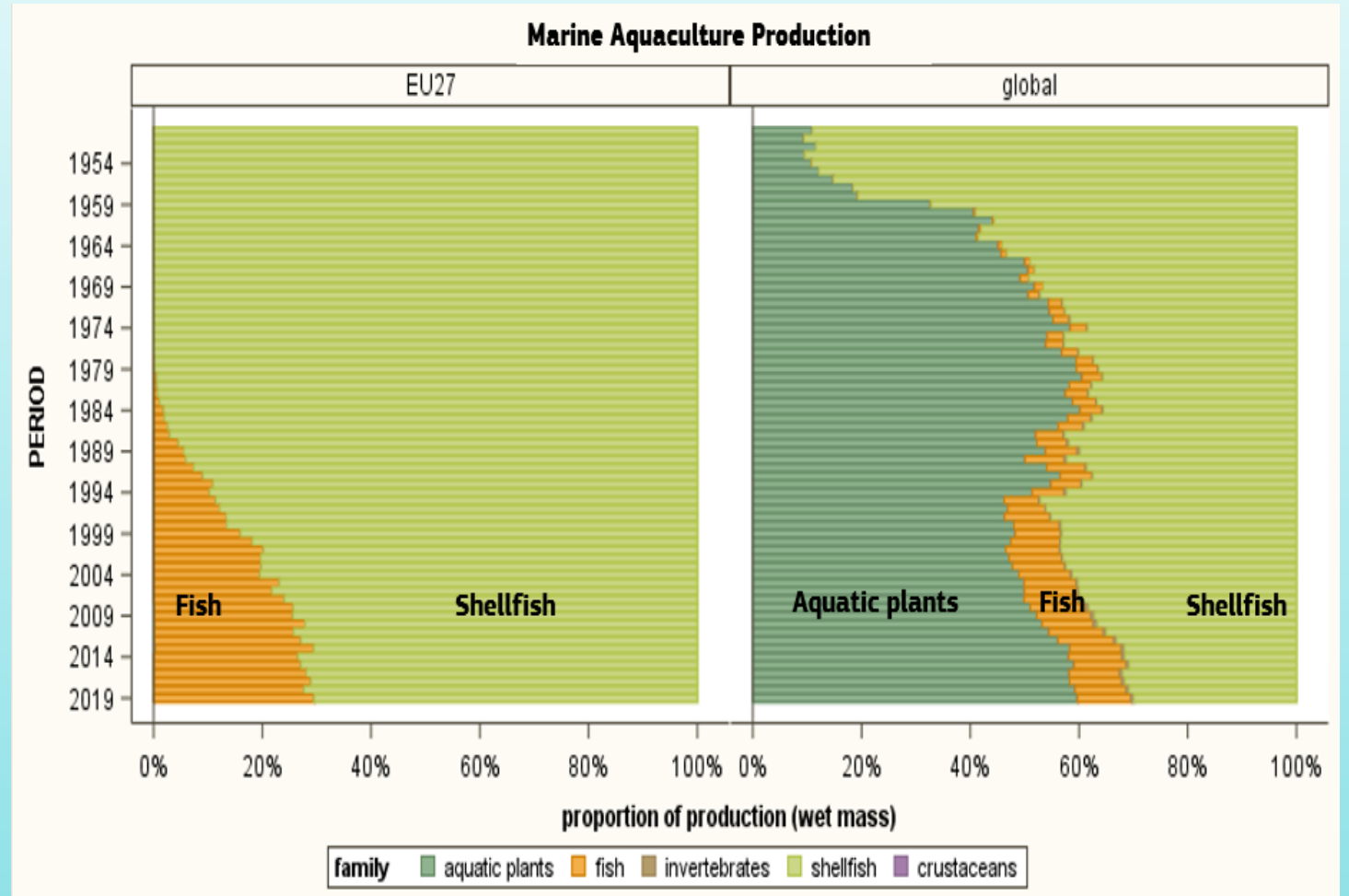
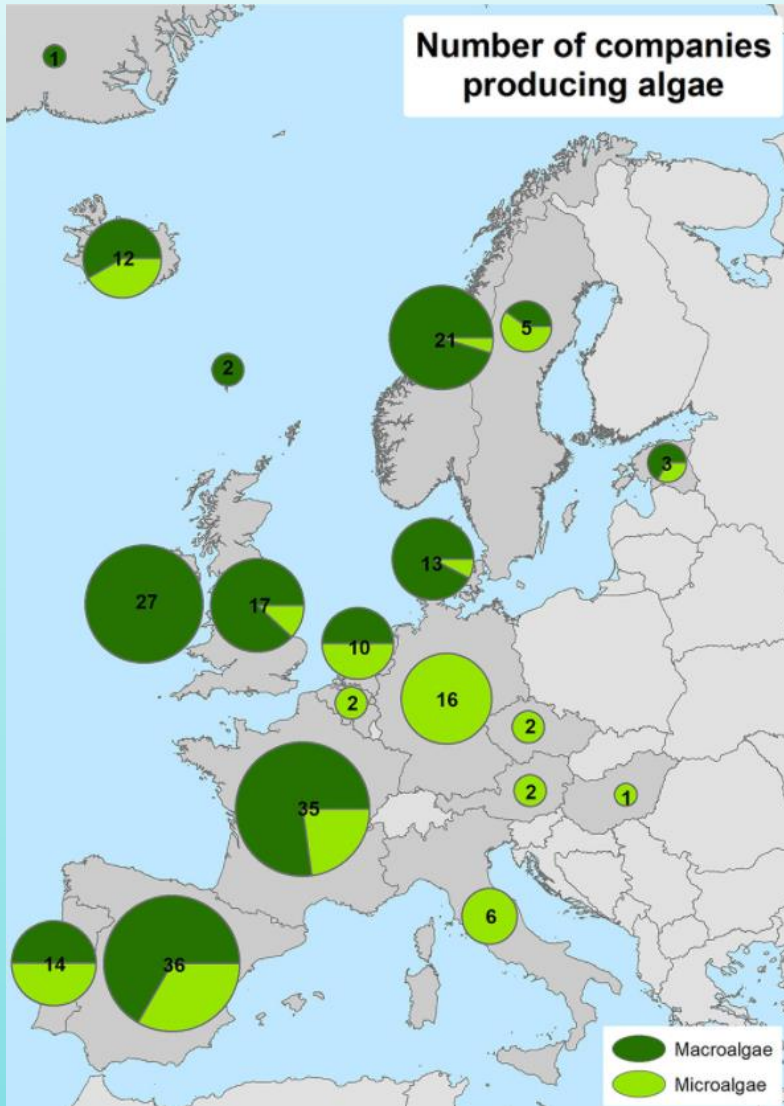




# What can algae do for you?



# Algae sector in Europe



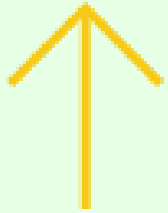




# Blue Bioeconomy Report 2022

- >1/3 of companies worldwide, but still many non-commercial startups.
- Latest developments of algae cultivation systems.
- Sargassum commercialisation.
- Seaweed as blue carbon.
- Seaweed farming as a motor for regional economies.

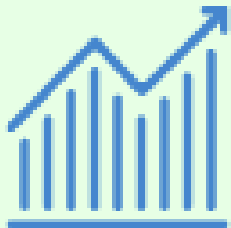
# European demand for algae and algae-based products



EU demand for seaweed may reach up to **EUR 9 billion in 2030**  
( $\triangleq$  3.000% increase in best case scenario)



EU is a top importer worldwide of seaweed products:  
**EUR 554 million** in 2016



Market for chlorella will accelerate with an annual growth rate of 6.4% to 2025  
Market for spirulina will accelerate with an annual growth rate of 8.7% to 2025



Growing human population worldwide  
**75 million** vegans and vegetarians in Europe  
Ageing population and increasingly health-conscious consumers



# What is happening already?

- Algae related funding calls: Horizon Europe, Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking, EMFAF, EIT Climate-Kic, EIT Food
- Algae business support mechanisms: BlueInvest, Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism
- Ocean literacy and awareness raising: EU4Ocean coalition, Taste the Ocean campaign



## **Studies to support the European Green Deal**

Shellfish and algae (2022 – 2023/4) : assessing the potential of shellfish and algae to recycle nutrients

Algae and Climate (2022 – 2023): examines costs, impact and benefits of scaling up production of marine algae through aquaculture in the EU

### **#TasteTheOcean**

is a campaign from the EU with top chefs across Europe to encourage consumers to buy and enjoy sustainable fish and seafood.

# The EU algae initiative was announced mid-November 2022



Virginijus Sinkevičius • 1er

European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries at European ...

1 sem. •

Pioneering EU initiative just out!

We present 23 actions to boost the Algae sector in Europe.

Some key actions include:

- 📁 developing a new algae farmers' toolkit
- 🌐 facilitating access to marine space, identifying optimal sites for seaweed farming and including it in maritime spatial plans
- 🇪🇺 developing standards for algae ingredients and contaminants, as well as for algae biofuel
- 👤 examining the algae market and proposing market-stimulating mechanisms to support the transfer of technology from research to market

This initiative will help create a robust and sustainable industry and stronger algae farming as demand of seaweed products in EU is expected to reach EUR 9 billion in 2030.



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Brussels, 15.11.2022  
COM(2022) 592 final

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

**Towards a Strong and Sustainable EU Algae Sector**

{SWD(2022) 361 final}



# The EU Algae Initiative – How did we get there?

## Problems

- High production costs
- Low-scale production
- Limited knowledge of risks and environmental impacts of algae cultivation
- Fragmented governance framework

## Objectives

### Unlock the EU algae potential by:

- Increasing sustainable production, safe consumption and innovative use of algae products
- Upscaling regenerative algae cultivation and production
- Developing and mainstreaming the markets for food and non-food algae applications

## Action areas

1. The improvement of governance framework and legislation
2. Supporting the improvement of business environment
3. Closing knowledge, data, technological and innovation gaps
4. Increasing social awareness and acceptance

# The EU Algae Initiative

**23 actions** aimed at:

1. improving the governance framework and legislation,
2. improving the business environment,
3. closing knowledge, research, technological and innovation gaps, and
4. increasing social awareness and market acceptance

To be piloted in a coordinated way, in close collaboration with Member States and relevant stakeholders.





# The EU Algae Initiative – examples of EC actions

- To develop a new ***algae farmers' toolkit***
- To develop ***standards*** (with CEN) on testing, quantification and extraction methods for algae ingredients and contaminants; develop algae biofuel and certification standards
- To assess market potential, efficiency and safety of algae-based materials when used in ***fertilising products*** (Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 to include algae-based materials?)
- To develop guidance to promote replacing fish-based feed with ***algae-based feed***
- Awareness & communication: first ***EU Algae Day***, 6-7 October 2023, Paris.



# EU4Algae

## EU4Algae

- Create European algae stakeholder forum (some 650 members today)
- Bring more algae species to the EU market
- Lots of useful co-created deliverables

## EU4Algae & Algae Initiative

- Website and online community
- Complementary
- Capitalize on well-established collaborative environment
- EU4Algae is expected to contribute to delivering on all 4 priorities of the initiative

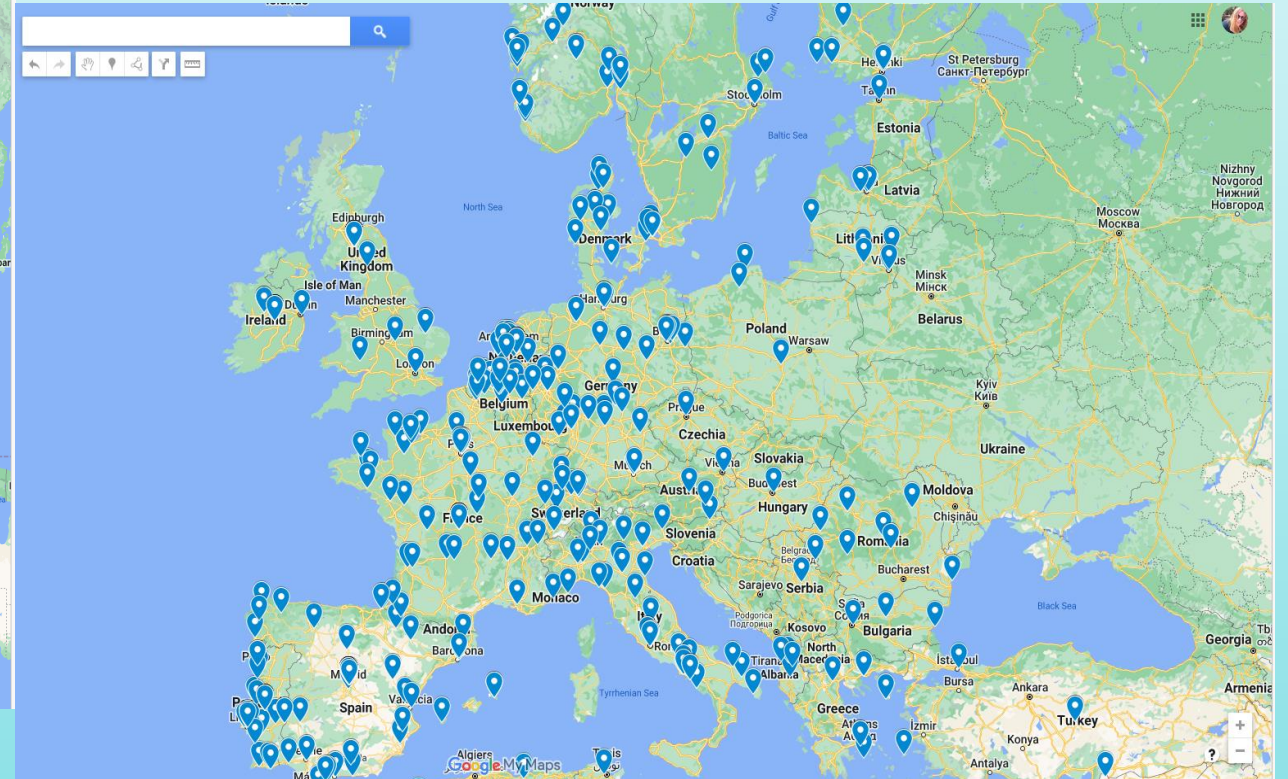
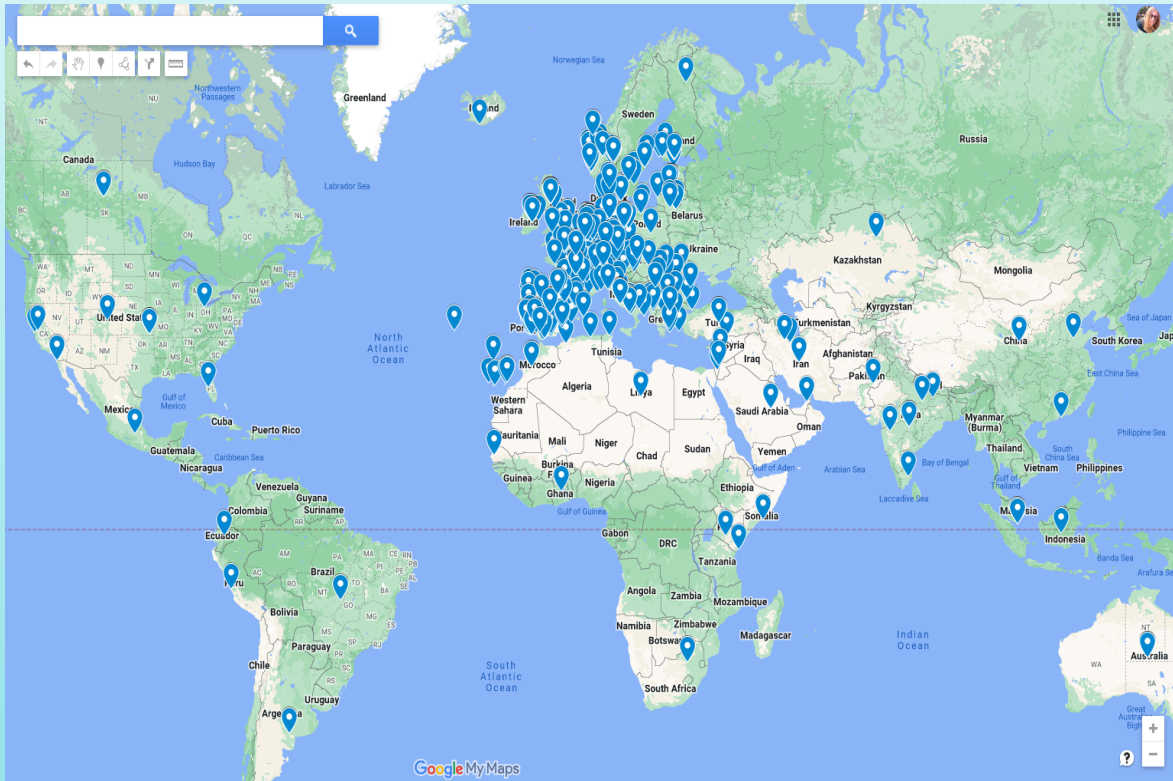
The screenshot shows the website for the EU4Algae initiative. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the European Commission logo and the text 'MARITIME FORUM'. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: 'European Commission > Maritime Forum > Blue economy > Blue Bioeconomy > EU4Algae'. The main navigation includes 'Themes', a home icon, 'Communities', 'Search', and 'F.A.Q.'. A 'Views count' section is visible in the top right corner. The main content area features a large banner image of seaweed with the text 'EU4Algae' overlaid. Below the banner is a grid of seven icons representing different areas of focus: Macroalgae Production, Microalgae production, Algae for Food, Algae for Feed, Ecosystem Services & Bioremediation, Materials, Chemicals, Bioactives & Algae Biorefining, and Youth & Entrepreneurship.



# EU4Algae registered members

Currently there are 650 members registered and participating in WG discussions

To join: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/en/frontpage/1727>



# Thank you and do not hesitate to contact us #BeGreenGoBlue



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