

## SUMMARY

The rendering industry is a key player in current waste strategies at UK and European level.

## EUROPEAN WASTE POLICY

### Policies being pursued

As part of the European Green Deal<sup>1</sup> the EU is pursuing a number of policies (see also Figure 1):

- Climate Law (and public consultation);
- 2030 Climate Target Plan;
- Farm to Fork Strategy<sup>2</sup>;
- New Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP)<sup>3</sup>;
- Biodiversity Strategy 2030;
- Revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED);
- Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.

Several of these are of direct relevance to the rendering industry, particularly the IED and the Circular Economy, which supports the Farm to Fork Strategy.

Overarching these is the 2030 Climate Plan, backed by Climate Law.

### Rendering and the Farm to Fork Strategy

The *Farm to Fork Strategy*, part of the *European Green Deal*, recognises the existence of excess nutrients in the environment arising from agricultural over-use and the fact that not all nutrients are absorbed by plants. These are a major source of air, soil and water pollution which negatively impacts biodiversity and climate.

The Commission will act to:

- reduce nutrient losses by at least 50%, while ensuring no deterioration on soil fertility.
- reduce fertilizer use by at least 20% by 2030.

Rendering reduces those nutrient losses from animal-based sources almost completely and provides much needed fertiliser to replace those from non-renewable sources. Further information can be found in *The Circular Economy and Animal By-Products*<sup>4</sup>.

In the EU, around 100 Mt of food waste is generated every year with about 38% of this arising during processing. Waste streams are of both animal and plant origin and are either unusable, so disposed of, or have only partial, low value utilisation options.



Figure 1 – Condensed Green Deal Timeline

The EU is looking for processes that will provide high value utilisation. Rendering provides that route for animal-based food waste with product outlets in the chemical industry, animal, fish and fur feed, pet food, biofuel, fertiliser, biodiesel and as a combustion fuel. The FABRA Factsheets *Outlets for Animal By-Products Derived Products*<sup>5</sup> and *Lifting of Feed Ban for Animal By-products*<sup>6</sup> provide more information on the outlet options and their environmental credibility.

The EU will be collaborating with third countries and international actors to support a global move towards sustainable food systems<sup>7</sup> and ultimately a sustainable food labelling framework will inform consumer choice.

## UK WASTE POLICY

### Policies being pursued

The UK has a number of environmental policy initiatives which are relevant to waste:

- The 25 Year Environment Plan<sup>8</sup> linked with the Industrial Strategy and the Clean Growth Strategy<sup>9</sup>;
- The Environment Bill, currently before parliament, which will set targets on resource use and explores measuring resource productivity as a ratio of national economic output e.g. gross domestic product (GDP), to raw material consumption;
- Circular economy commitments at a UK level and from each of the devolved administrations, at varying stages of implementation<sup>10, 11, 12, 13, 14</sup>;
- The UK Bioeconomy Strategy 2018-2030 which will provide a supportive policy environment in which businesses develop and deliver bio-based solutions to everyday challenges.

### Rendering and the 25 Year Environment Plan

The UK's 25 Year Environment Plan sets out ten goals for improving the environment within a generation, three of which rendering makes a direct contribution to:

- Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently;
- Minimising waste;
- Enhancing biosecurity.

Other FABRA factsheets<sup>4, 5</sup> elaborate in these areas.

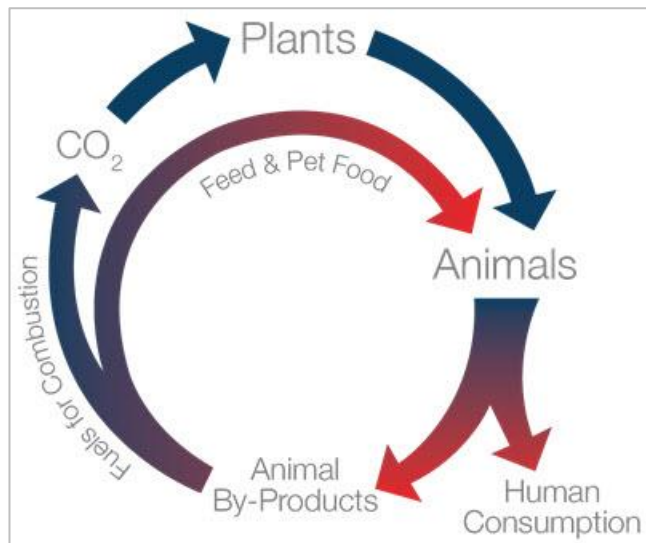


Figure 2 – The Animal By-product Cycle

### Rendering and the circular economy

The UK's commitment to the circular economy model has been set out by the UK government<sup>10</sup>. The model and the substantial ways in which rendering meets circular economy objectives are described in the factsheet *The Circular Economy and Animal By-Products*<sup>4</sup>.

In summary (see also Figure 2), rendering produces:

- animal fats that can replace other oils in the oleochemical industry;
- materials that can be used in pet foods and animal feeds;

- material that can be used as a renewable energy source.

### REFERENCES

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