

Bioplastics from research to policy: Where is the European policy making heading for?

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European Bioplastics association

Association of more than 80 enterprises, RTOs...

- Monitor impacts, boundaries, and development of policy and regulatory frameworks
- Inform the associates on the possible effects of legislation on the project's R&D activities and objectives
- Serve as a guide on relevant standardization and labelling schemes

Bioplastics are found in a multitude of market segments



Food Packaging



Automotive



Cosmetics /
Packaging



Catering/Service ware



Textiles



Electronics



Toys/Leisure



Shopping Bags

BIOPLASTICS

are

bio-based
e.g. bio-PE



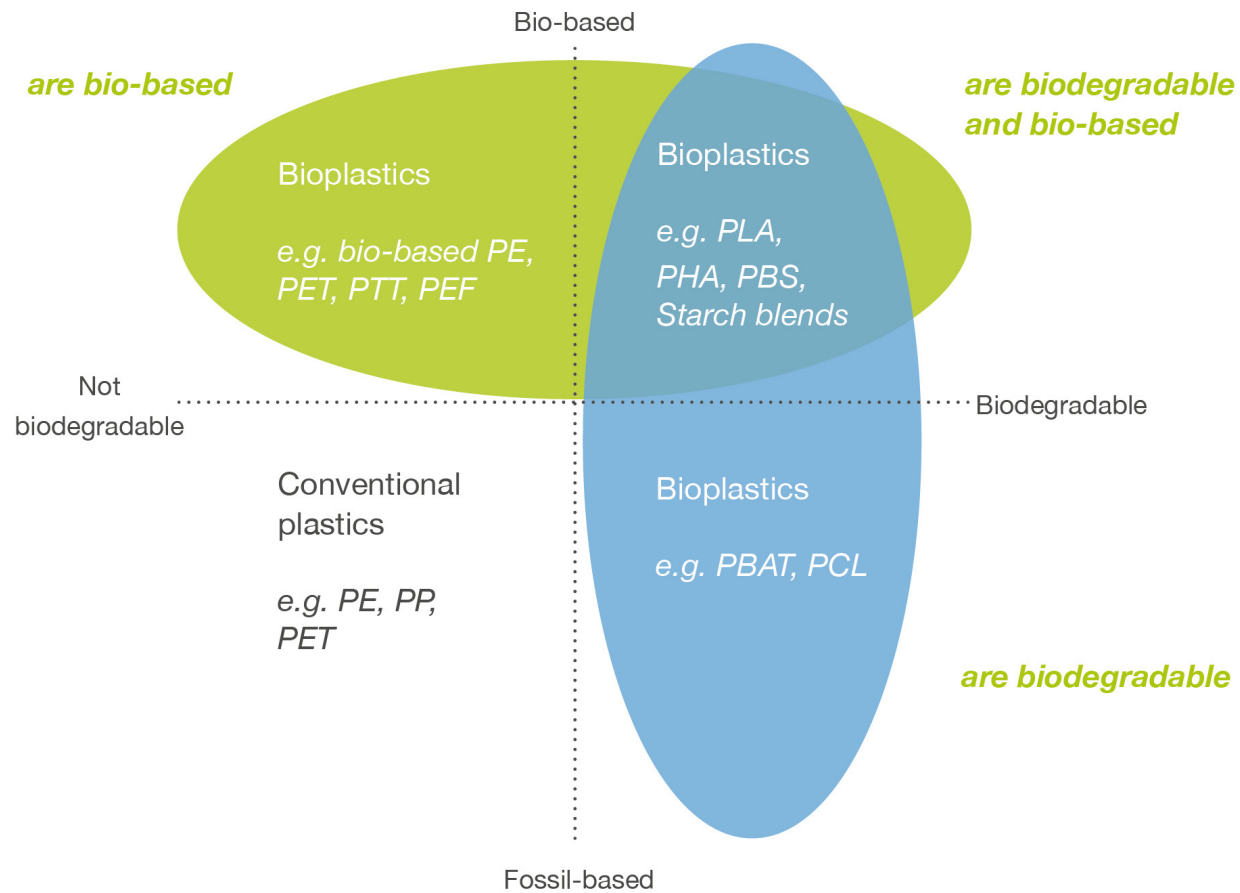
biodegradable
e.g. PBAT



or both
e.g. starch blends



Bioplastics are not just one single material:



Why bioplastics?

“Bioplastics drive the evolution of plastics and contribute significantly to a **sustainable society**”

„Bioplastics offer a **broad range of functionalities** optimised for each type of application“



“Bio-based durable drop-in plastics **possess the same physical and chemical properties** as their **conventional counterparts**”

„Bioplastics offer innovative **technical and material solutions** for better **product performance**“

Economic impacts



- The bioplastics industry accounts for around **23.000 jobs** in Europe. This could **double or even triple by 2030**
- **Packaging** is one of the largest fields of application for bioplastics with a **share of about 50% of the total bioplastics market**
- **Bioplastics** contribute to **improved waste management**: key to the European Commission's flagship **policy goal of a resource efficient Europe and its circular economy vision**



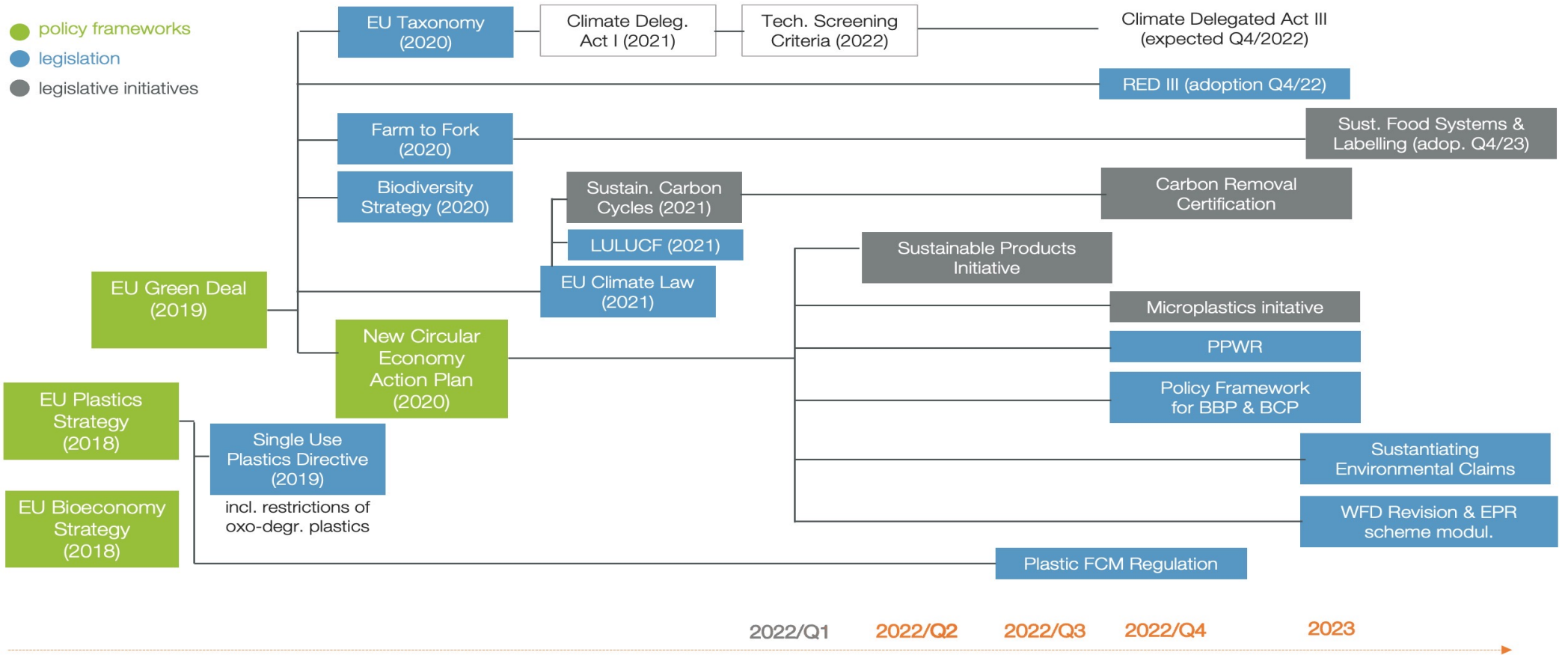
Bioplastics are an integral part of the transition to a circular economy in Europe



Linking the **BIOECONOMY** and **CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

EU policy overview & EUBP key policy priorities

[November 2022]



European Parliament and European Commission



- The **European Parliament (EP)** is one of the legislative bodies of the European Union. Directly elected by EU citizens. Together with the Council of the European Union it adopts European legislation, following a proposal by the European Commission. It does not formally possess the **right of initiative**, as most national parliaments of the member states do



- The **European Commission (EC)** is responsible for **planning, preparing and proposing new European legislation**. This is called the 'right of initiative', a prerogative of the EC

Policy making and decision making

- Members of the European Parliament
- Directorates General of the EC: *ENV, CLIMA, RTD, SANTE, MARE...*

Types of legislation: Directives and regulations

- Regulation: Has binding legal force throughout every Member State and enter into force on a set date in all the Member States
- Directive: A legislative act that sets out a goal that all EU countries must achieve. However, it is up to the individual countries to devise their own laws on how to reach these goals

One example is the EU single-use plastics directive, which reduces the impact of certain single-use plastics on the environment, for example by reducing or even banning the use of single-use plastics such as plates, straws and cups for beverages

Four Examples of recent policy making activities

1. Communication: Policy Framework for Bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics (30 November 2022)
2. Proposal EC Regulation: Packaging and Packaging Waste (30 November 2022)
3. Revision rules on Food Contact Materials – Open EC Consultation (until 11 January 2023)
4. Sustainable Product Initiative: Ecodesign and Digital Product Passport (2023/2024?)

1. Communication: Policy Framework for Bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics (30 Nov. 2022)

Focus on the sourcing, labelling and use of bioplastics

- Aims to contribute to a sustainable plastics economy by:
 - improving understanding materials and clarifying potential environmental benefits
 - guiding citizens, public authorities and businesses
 - preventing differences at national level and fragmentation of the market
- Provide definitions for bio-based and for biodegradable
- Home composting for plastics should only be considered in the context of specific local conditions under the supervision of the authorities and provided that the use of such plastics has clear added value

2. Packaging and Packaging Waste EU Regulation proposal (30 Nov. 2022)

- All packaging on the EU market mandatory reusable or recyclable by 2030
- Definition of recyclability
- Harmonisation of labelling
- **Compostable packaging solutions allowed to be marketed and recycled**
- Several packaging applications mandatory to be compostable **in industrial composting** facilities: tea bags, filter coffee pods and pads, fruit stickers, and very lightweight plastic carrier bags

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/waste-and-recycling/packaging-waste_en#review

3. Revision rules on Food Contact Materials – Open Consultation (until 11 January 2023)

Based on the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy: heading to a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system, improved public health, food safety, food waste reduction

- Aims to build a comprehensive, future-proof and enforceable regulatory system for FCMs at EU level
- Introduces specific rules to ensure that FCMs manufactured from less traditional and potentially more sustainable production sources and methods, have clear rules on safety
- These materials would be assessed with methods to take account of their origins and production methods

https://food.ec.europa.eu/safety/chemical-safety/food-contact-materials/revision-eu-rules_en

4. Sustainable Product Initiative (SPI)

Proposal for EU Regulation on Ecodesign for sustainable products published in March 2022 for more environmentally sustainable and circular products, revising the Ecodesign Directive *Ecodesign Directive 2009/125/EC*

- Aims to make products placed on the EU market more sustainable with increased circularity
- Setting new performance and information requirements to make products more **durable, reliable, reusable, upgradable, repairable, easier to maintain, refurbish and recycle, and energy and resource efficient**
- Product-specific information requirements to ensure **consumers** know the environmental impacts of their purchases
- All regulated products will have **Digital Product Passports**:
Information about products' environmental sustainability, helping consumers and businesses make informed choices when purchasing products, facilitating repairs and recycling and improving transparency about products' life cycle impacts on the environment. Helping public authorities to better perform checks and controls

Thank you!

Grazie per l'attenzione!

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