

Final conference – H2020 project PROGRESS

Bio-based plastics: market development & efficient funding

Kristy-Barbara Lange, European Bioplastics, 27 September 2017, Brussels



European Bioplastics: 20+ years bioplastics experience

- European Bioplastics represents the interest of the bioplastics industry along the entire value chain in Europe.
- Our foremost goal and commitment is to build a EU policy framework for bioplastics across all relevant policy sectors.
- We aim to achieve this through strong engagement and dialogue with all relevant stakeholder.



We welcome and support...

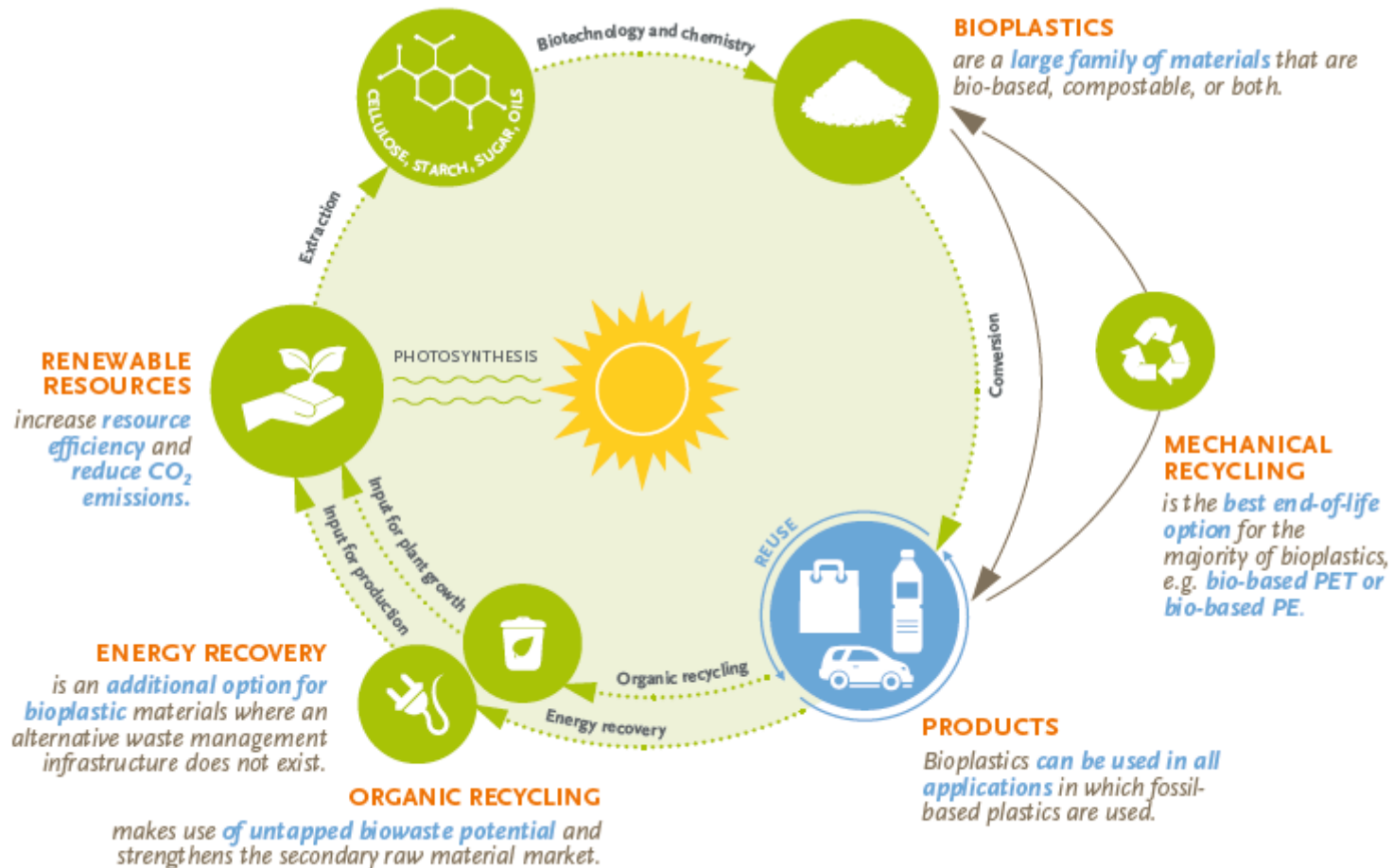
European Commission Com(2017)/479 – 13 September 2017

‘Investing in a smart, innovative and sustainable Industry A renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy’

In December 2017, the Commission will put forward a new series of actions on Circular Economy. This will include a strategy to move towards a circular plastics economy in Europe, including through fostering innovation and investments. A stronger development of the bio-economy can also help the EU to accelerate progress towards a circular and low-carbon economy improving production of renewable biological resources and their conversion into bio-based products and bio-energy.

Bioplastics – bio-based, biodegradable OR both

- **How do bioplastics contribute to the Circular Economy?**



Bioplastics are
already part of our
EVERYDAY
LIFE.



The bioplastics market: status quo

- The bioplastics industry today:
 - Since the 1990s: wide range of material innovation, mature products, standards, certifications, labels, LCAs, market data, information exchange.
 - Growth to 4 million tonnes and a diversification in materials.
 - The demand for GHG mitigation potential, circular perspective and novel properties is high as ever, however...
 - the industry's development is slowed down by a lack of infrastructure – in policy, in feedstock supply, in waste management.
 - More research into material innovation is necessary as innovative thinking should never stop,
 - but investments into scale up of manufacturing and market making measures at EU level are key to develop the bioplastic market.

The bioplastics market: the main bottlenecks

- Major bottlenecks:
 - Access to EU-grown biomass
 - Costs (compared to fossil-based plastics → low oil price / scale)
 - Level playing field with fossil-plastics regarding sustainability
 - Consumer awareness / consumption habits
 - Trend discussions that lead to misguided expectations



The bioplastics market: drivers in the coming 10 years

- What to focus on in order to overcome the bottlenecks?
 - The bioplastics sector is in need of a supporting legislative framework across all relevant policy areas at EU level.
 - A commitment of the European institutions to link the bioeconomy and the circular economy is therefore key.
 - This agreement needs to be complemented by
 - A level playing field for fossil-based products and bio-based products is needed (e.g. sustainability criteria / costs)
 - A distinction between soundly proven technology and technology that undermines circular thinking (e.g. oxo-degradable plastics)
 - A prudent discussion of marine littering and well deliberated demands for the property biodegradability; the circular principle needs to be paramount

The bioplastics market: drivers in the coming 10 years

- More concretely – what could / should be done?
 - Access to bio-based feedstock e.g. valorisation of side-streams and by products of farmers (new revenue channels); level playing field access for bio-based industries (incentives/subsidies);
 - Support investments into build up of biorefinery technology across EU – e.g. via funding or tax incentives
 - Support investments into organic and mechanic recycling infrastructure across EU – e.g. via funding or tax incentives
 - Market making measures – e.g. differentiated EPR fees for bio-based content, minimum bio-based content guidelines in GPP, incremental minimum bio-based content targets for certain products, or long-term carbon taxation for plastics (incentivising the use of recyclates / bio-based plastics)
 - Support consumer education (consumption, waste management, information on standards/certification/labels) → necessary for all plastics / packaging sector

Good reasons to integrate bioplastics in legislation



Standards, certification, labels - available & advanced

- EN 14995 requirements for biodegradation and composting for plastics
- EN 16640 on bio-based content of products (in addition standards EN 16785-1, EN 16785-2)
- Certifications & labels based on these standards available
- Certification for sustainability of feedstock available as well



biobased %



In the words of the European Bioeconomy Alliance:

- *Commit to support investments and furthering **mobilisation of biomass and valorisation of side-streams and co-products** for a multitude of uses including plastics to enhance the sustainability and competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector ;*
- *Underline that **bio-based resources combined with recyclability are key criteria for efficient product design**;*
- *Include **a reference to separate collection of bio-waste and organic recycling** and in this context the important role of plastics that are bio-based and biodegradable;*
- *Further research on different feedstock for plastic production while ensuring a **level-playing-field regarding sustainability criteria for fossil and bio-based feedstock**;*
- *Reference and support concrete **ongoing initiatives in other policy fields** regarding the use of bio-based resources for the manufacture of plastic materials and products;*
- ***Monitor the implementation of concrete legislative initiatives** in the coming years and take results of implemented policies into account when evaluating the need for more primary research.*





Contact:

Kristy-Barbara Lange
European Bioplastics e.V.
Marienstr. 19-20, D- 10117 Berlin (Mitte)

Phone. +49 (0) 30 28482 356
Fax +49 (0) 30 28482 359
Email: lange@european-bioplastics.org

<http://www.european-bioplastics.org>
<http://twitter.com/EUBioplastics>