

PRESS RELEASE

Bioplastics production capacities to grow by more than 400% by 2018 All bioplastic materials increase / EU in need of clear framework

Berlin, 3 December 2014. The results of European Bioplastics' annual market data update, presented today at the 9th European Bioplastics Conference in Brussels, confirm the positive growth trend of the global bioplastics production capacities. "The market is predicted to grow by more than 400 percent in the mid-term," stated François de Bie, Chairman of European Bioplastics.

The data compiled in cooperation with its respected scientific partners – the IfBB - Institute for Bioplastics and Biocomposites (University of Applied Sciences and Arts Hannover, Germany) and the nova-Institute (Hürth, Germany) – shows that bioplastics production capacity is set to increase from around 1.6 million tonnes in 2013 to approximately 6.7 million tonnes by 2018. Biobased, non-biodegradable plastics, such as biobased PE and biobased PET, are gaining the most. PLA is a major growth driver in the field of biobased and biodegradable plastics. Furthermore, renewable and compostable plastics produced locally are likely to benefit from the new EU directive on the reduction of shopping bags. Flexible and rigid packaging remains by far the leading application field for bioplastics. "Besides this, a decisive growth can be observed in textiles and automotive applications. From functional sports garments with enhanced breathability to fuel lines – bioplastics are constantly spreading into new markets," explained de Bie.

With a view to regional capacity development, Asia will expand its role as major production hub. Most of the currently planned projects are being implemented in Thailand, India and China. About 75 percent of bioplastics will be produced in Asia by 2018. In comparison: Europe at the forefront of research and development will be left with only roughly 8 percent of the production capacities. Additionally, other regions of the world, such as the USA and Asia, invest into measures 'closer to market introduction', which results in a faster market development than in Europe. "We urge the EU legislators to consider and make efficient use of the immense environmental, economic growth and job creation potential of our industry. In this context, the Circular Economy Package should remain in the Commission's 2015 Work Programme and the Waste Target Review should proceed as planned," concluded de Bie.

Market data graphics are available for download in English and German:
<http://en.european-bioplastics.org/press/press-pictures/labelling-logos-charts/>

European Bioplastics is the European association representing the interests of the industry along the complete bioplastics' value chain. Its members produce, refine and distribute bioplastics i.e. plastics that are either biobased, biodegradable, or both. More information is available at www.european-bioplastics.org

Institute for Bioplastics and Biocomposites (IfBB): IfBB's research focuses on the development, processing and industrial usage of bioplastics and biocomposites. The practice-oriented approach of the IfBB is an asset to engineering education. The IfBB offers a large range of bioplastic data (processing routes, feedstock requirements, land use, more market data, etc.) free of charge at www.downloads.ifbb-hannover.de.

nova-Institute: Founded in 1994, the nova-Institute is a renowned sparring partner for industry as well as public and policy institutions at European level. The data excerpt of European Bioplastics only covers novel biobased and/or biodegradable plastics and is part of a comprehensive market study with a larger scope due to be published by the nova-Institute at the beginning of 2015. More information is available at www.bio-based.eu/markets.

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