

PRESS RELEASE

European Parliament's ENVI Committee backs bioplastics in vote on waste legislation

Berlin, 25 January 2017 – European Bioplastics (EUBP), the association representing the bioplastics industry in Europe, congratulates the European Parliament's Environment Committee and rapporteur Simona Bonafè on their strong efforts and the results of yesterday's vote on the waste legislation proposals concerning the EU Circular Economy Package.

The positive vote of the Members of Parliament results in amendments of the Waste Framework Directive that will help to ensure a separate collection of bio-waste across Europe facilitated by certified collection tools such as compostable bio-waste bags. "The amendments ensure that the potential of bio-waste as a valuable resource can be tapped through organic recycling and will provide an important boost to the secondary resource and products market within the European Union", says François de Bie, Chairman of EUBP.

In line with its ambitious goal to increase resource efficiency, the European Parliament also voted to exclude mechanically or organically recyclable waste from landfills, supported a definition that confirms by-products not to be waste, and introduced a food waste definition and a food waste prevention hierarchy.

With regard to the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive, the adoption of the amendment encouraging the use of bio-based resources for the production of packaging is a first important milestone that concretely links the concepts of circular economy and bioeconomy. Bio-based mechanically and organically recyclable plastics support circular thinking by lowering carbon emissions, helping to reach recycling quotas and keep valuable secondary raw materials and renewable carbon in the loop. "The European Parliament just took a big step towards reducing our dependency on fossil resources and driving the transition to a low-carbon, bio-based economy. This can only be tackled step by step in the next years via a concerted effort from all relevant stakeholders", says de Bie.

EUBP looks forward to continuing the dialogue on the upcoming proposal on the European Commission's "Strategy on Plastics in a Circular Economy" and will work closely with European institutions and relevant stakeholders to build a coherent and comprehensive framework for a circular bioeconomy in Europe.

About European Bioplastics:

European Bioplastics (EUBP) is the European association representing the interests of the bioplastics industry along the entire value chain. Its members produce, refine and distribute bioplastics i.e. plastics that are bio-based, biodegradable, or both. More information is available at www.european-bioplastics.org.

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