

PRESS RELEASE

Successful EUBP Conference: bioplastics industry set to engage with political stakeholders on upcoming legislation

Berlin, 9 December 2022 – At the 17th annual European Bioplastics (EUBP) Conference, which took place on 6/7 December in Berlin, industry experts discussed the latest innovations in the bioplastics sector and drove the debate on most recent political developments. These included in particular the Commission’s first policy framework on innovative bioplastic materials as well as the proposal for a Regulation on Packaging and Packaging Waste (PPWR). Both experts and policymakers agreed that the regulatory environment for bioplastics requires a continuous close cooperation between industry and politics.

In his opening remarks, Stefan Barot, Chairman of European Bioplastics (EUBP), emphasized the leadership role of the European Union (EU) in addressing the existing environmental challenges. He focused on the EU’s promotion of a circular economy to achieve European climate neutrality by 2050 and the contribution bioplastics can make to achieve this goal. “Bioplastics with their beginning of life and end of life advantages and their special material properties have a lot to offer. The same goes for the industry, an important player in the technical and political debate. However, to use its full potential to support the EU climate objectives and to foster innovation, our industry needs a future-oriented, clear, and transparent economic and regulatory environment,” said Barot. The varied conference programme, which examined key issues along the bioplastics value chain, strongly reinforced his statement. In ten different sessions, over 40 speakers and moderators focused on the contribution that biobased and biodegradable and compostable plastics can make to achieve a circular economy.

The conference sessions, amongst other topics, highlighted best practices in food waste collection, showed new directions in bioplastic innovation, and gave a global perspective on standardisation. The policy panel further elaborated on the role of especially compostable plastics in the circular economy. Industry and policymakers agreed on the necessity to work closely together in order to establish an adequate environment for bioplastics. In other sessions conference attendees also discussed end of life options of biobased and compostable plastics and their benefits. Further topics were recent advances in bioplastic packaging and innovative applications towards sustainability. New European Bioplastics market data, based on research from the nova-institute, gave a positive outlook for bioplastics production. “The global bioplastics production capacity is set to increase significantly from around 2.23 million tonnes in 2022 to 6.3 million tonnes in 2027,” said Hasso von Pogrell, Managing Director of EUBP.

This year, bioplastics’ leading business and networking platform was held in a hybrid format attracting more than 360 participants. Over 300 participants attended in person, while the other attendees were able to follow the event online. At the conference exhibition, around 30 companies and institutions showcased the high diversity of new products, materials, and applications. Innovation also requires research – thus the conference included a poster exhibition with 14 different universities and research institutes presenting bioplastics-related projects.

European Bioplastics extends a special thank you to the sponsors of this year's conference: ECHO, BIOTEC, CJ BIOMATERIALS, COLUMBUS INSTRUMENTS, COVATION BIO, DIN CERTCO, FKUR, NATUREWORKS, NESTE, NORMEC OWS, SUKANO, TECHNIP ENERGIES, TOTALENERGIES CORBION, TÜV AUSTRIA, WACKER, and AIMPLAS.

Speakers and moderators at the 17th European Bioplastics Conference 2022:

Johana Carolina Andrade Chapal | AIMPLAS, Stefan Barot | European Bioplastics, Glauco Battagliarin | BASF SE, Oliver Buchholz | European Bioplastics, Martin Bussmann | Neste, Alberto Castellanza | Novamont, Fabian Coosmann | NaKu, Bruno de Wilde | Normec OWS, Roberto Ferrigno | European Bioplastics, Jorge Cristobal Garcia | JRC, European Commission, Steve Davies | NatureWorks, François de Bie | TotalEnergies Corbion, Philippe Dewolfs | TÜV Austria, Oliver Ehlert | DIN CERTCO, Sven Engelmann | ILLIG Maschinenbau, Silvia Forni | DG ENV, European Commission, Nana Fujishiro | Asahi Kasei Corporation, Christian Geltinger | Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Germany, Francesc Giró i Fontanals | Waste Agency of Catalonia, Cameron Hibbert | Genomatica, Andrej Holobar | ECHO, Christian Holzleitner | DG Clima, European Commission, Constance Ißbrücker | European Bioplastics, Sheila Khodadadi | Avantium, Albrecht Läufer | BluCon Biotech, Emilien Mathiot | Technip Energies, Ramani Narayan | Michigan State University, Vinzenz Nienhaus | Biovox, Jan Noordegraaf | Innograaf, Jan Pels | Torwash, Erik Pras | BIOTEC, Marco Ricci | Consorzio Italiano Compostatori, Mathias Schmitz | RWTH Aachen, Hubert Seiringer | Austrian Compost & Biogas Association, Irene Serrano | Tecnopackaging, Stefanie Siebert | European Compost Network (ECN), Yorimasa Suwa | Meiji University Center for Polymer Science, Uku Erik Tropp | Fibenol, Bernhard Urwyler | Zhejiang Sugar Energy Technology, Mariagiovanna Vetere | NatureWorks, Hasso v. Pogrell | European Bioplastics, Patrick van Waes | Covation Biomaterials, Marco Versari | Biorepack, Hugo Vuurens | CJ Biomaterials, Miriam Weber | HYDRA Marine Sciences, Harmen Willemse | Royal Netherlands Standardization Institute (NEN), Rhodes Yepsen | Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI), Patrick Zimmermann | FKUR.

Exhibitors at the 17th European Bioplastics Conference 2022:

AIMPLAS, BASF, BIOTEC, BPC INSTRUMENTS, CJ BIOMATERIALS, COLUMBUS INSTRUMENTS, COVATION BIO, DIN CERTCO, ECHO, FKUR, IKT (University of Stuttgart), KOMPUESTOS, MÉRIEUX NUTRISCIENCES, NATUREWORKS, NESTE, NOVA INSTITUT, NOVAMONT, NORMEC OWS, PTT MCC, SHENZHEN ESUN, SUKANO, TECHNIP ENERGIES, TECNARO, TOTALENERGIES CORBION, TÜV AUSTRIA, WACKER.

Poster exhibitors at the 17th European Bioplastics Conference 2022:

EMaRT Group, Arzeda, B4Plastics, BIOMAC, BIONTOP, BioSupack, Częstochowa University of Technology, Fibenol, HAW Hamburg, Hydra Marine Science, ITENE, Montanuniversität Leoben, Preserve, SIMBIO, TU Berlin, University of Albstadt-Sigmaringen.

European Bioplastics:

European Bioplastics represents the interests of the European bioplastics industry. Its members include companies from the entire value chain. The members produce, process and distribute plastics that are made from renewable raw materials, are biodegradable or combine both properties. Further information can be found at: www.european-bioplastics.org.

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