

European Bioplastics · Marienstr.19/20 · 10117 Berlin

To: European Commission  
President von der Leyen

Brussels, 16 December 2024

## **European Bioplastics call to recognise the role of the bioplastics industry as an enabler to achieve the European Green Deal transformation**

Dear President von der Leyen,

We are writing to express our sincere congratulations to the new College of Commissioners for the legislative term 2024-2029. We warmly welcome the clarity and determination with which you have outlined the political guidelines of the European Commission. At such a complex time in history, your clear vision and determined leadership are a source of great inspiration.

Your words and actions demonstrate a strong commitment to keep promoting a green and digital transition to ensure Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness.

Particularly, under the chapter "A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness", you committed to developing a Clean Industrial Deal for competitive industries and quality jobs in the first 100 days of the mandate.

We welcome this important initiative. The average share of biobased chemical products in the overall chemical market is more than 3% and generated € 65 billion of value added in 2019, ensuring 500.000 jobs. These numbers prove a significant potential for growth, considering that SMEs constitute the overwhelming majority of economic players in the bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics value chain.

You also announced a new Circular Economy Act, helping to create market demand for secondary materials and a single market for waste, notably in relation to critical raw materials, while putting research and innovation at the heart of our economy.

The 2024 Communication on building the future with nature also offers a solid basis for a new European Biotech Act in 2025, including measures to accelerate the substitution of fossil feedstock and to stimulate the demand and market uptake of biobased products.

These measures will need to be supported by a solid financial base, which will conceivably be provided by the future European Competitiveness Fund.

We firmly believe that biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics are conducive to achieving the goals of sustainable competitiveness you set for the next Union policy cycle.

In this context, it will be necessary to come up with a clear policy framework, such as an Industrial Action plan on Biopolymers, including – at a minimum - the following steps among those we proposed in the 2024 Policy Manifesto which you can find enclosed to this message:

**1. Setting a legal and regulatory framework to boost investments and drive innovation in the EU**

To address the current lack of integration of bioeconomy concepts and priorities within the existing EU regulatory framework.

**2. Incentivising access to sustainable biomass**

To provide coherent and long-term incentives to stimulate a bioeconomy based on an efficient use of biomass. The review of the Bioeconomy Strategy, planned for 2025, provides an unique opportunity to rectify this, by allowing the transition from fossils to renewable materials.

**3. Providing a level playing field by creating financial support to technological innovation**

To increase funding and financing streams for research and innovation projects as well as close-to-market and production projects.

**4. Closing infrastructure gaps and incentivising access to food waste collection**

To address persisting challenges in implementing EU-wide practices of separating and processing compostable plastics from the general waste stream.

**5. Increasing market uptake**

To set up a level playing field for bio-based, biodegradable, and compostable plastics, beyond standards and labels. Market incentives, such as the ones recently introduced in the US, are sorely needed in Europe to keep the return on public and private investment from being harvested elsewhere.

We are of course available to meet with you for a more detailed in-depth and fruitful discussion on how to implement each of the steps we believe the EU will need to take to deliver on the sustainability and competitiveness goals you heralded.

Yours sincerely,

Signatories:

## Members of European Bioplastics (EUBP)

Asahi Kasei

**AsahiKASEI**

Celanese International

 **Celanese**

Futerra



Kaneka

**Kaneka**

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## Members of Bioplastics Organisations Network Europe (BON Europe)

Bio-based and Biodegradable Industries  
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 **BBIA**

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 **NORDISK BIOPLASTFÖRENING**