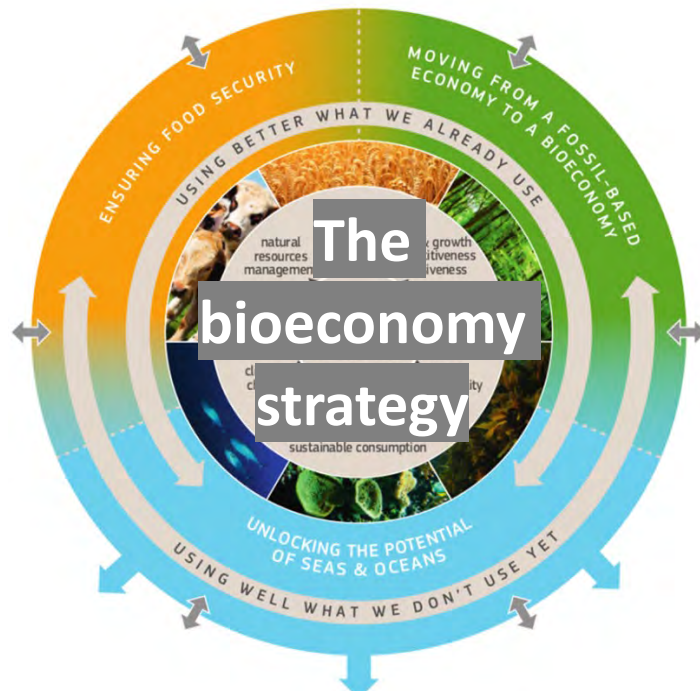


# Plastics in the circular economy



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# Key product value chains: plastics



## Implementing the Plastics Strategy

- Mandatory requirements for recycled content
  - ✓ 10 million tons of recycled plastics in new products on the EU market by 2025
- Addressing microplastics in the environment
- Policy framework on biobased & biodegradable plastics
- Implementing Single Use Plastics Directive:  
*Not against plastics, but tackling its unsustainable use*

+ All packaging on the EU market to be reusable or recyclable by 2030

# Microplastics

Proposal by end 2022

## Cosmetics, detergents, paints

- Towards a ban through REACH restriction dossier: Possibly by 2022

## Tyres

- Revision Tyre Labeling Regulation
- Standard on tyre abrasion
- Measures along the value chain

## Pellets

- Chain certification & Permitting
- Operation Clean Sweep

## Textiles

- Standard on measuring microplastics releases
- Measures along the value chain

## Microplastics in water

- Science related to risk & occurrence
- Legislation: water & marine

# Framework for biobased plastics (BBP) and biodegradable & compostable plastics (BDCP)

Sourcing, labelling and use of **biobased plastics**

- Biobased content?
- Sustainable sourcing?



**Use of compostable plastics**

- Limit cross-contamination of waste streams

**Use of biodegradable plastics**

- “No license to litter”
- Effective biodegradation – system perspective

# Sourcing, labelling and use of biobased plastics

## **‘Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of Alternative Feedstocks for Plastics Production’ (JRC, 2021)**

- Methodological framework
- Biogenic carbon: international standards and methods in Europe for policy making do not recognise the possibility to allow carbon discounting based on temporary storage

## **‘Biobased plastics: sustainable sourcing and content’ (EC study, 2021)**

- Information on the part of a plastic product that is entirely or partly derived from biomass (actual carbon content) and EU sustainability criteria are needed
- Policy options discussed: e.g. voluntary labelling, linking label on biobased content with sustainability criteria



# Labelling and use of biod. & comp. plastics

## **‘Relevance of compostable plastics & packaging in a CE’ (EC study, 2020)**

- Compostable relevant if environmental benefit over alternative:
  - IF product not recyclable or reusable;
  - IF it increases capture of bio-waste;
  - IF LCA demonstrates it is preferred material
- No reduction of quality of compost

## **‘Biodegradability of plastics in the open environment’ (Chief Scientific Advisors, 2020)**

- Prioritize reduction, reuse and recycling of plastics
- Limit to specific applications
- Not as solution for inappropriate waste management or littering

## **‘Conventional and biodegradable plastics in agriculture’ (EC study, 2021)**

- Biodegradable mulches can reduce occurrence and persistence of plastics in the environment

# Next steps

## A policy framework on biobased, biod. & comp. plastics by summer 2022

- Roadmap published: over 130 contributions received including from public authorities
- Web-based consultation starting in January 2022 (for 8 weeks)
- Relevant national experience for consideration
- Content:
  - Definitions & overarching principles
  - Labelling & sourcing of biobased plastics
  - Labelling & criteria for biodegradable and compostable plastics  
(+ illustrative examples of possible applications)



refuse



share



reuse



return  
&  
collect



sort



recycle



*Learn more about the circular economy and the plastics strategy:*

[Circular economy action plan \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-communications/inline-photos/2020/07/14/P102020071401.pdf) & [Plastics \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip19_1911)



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