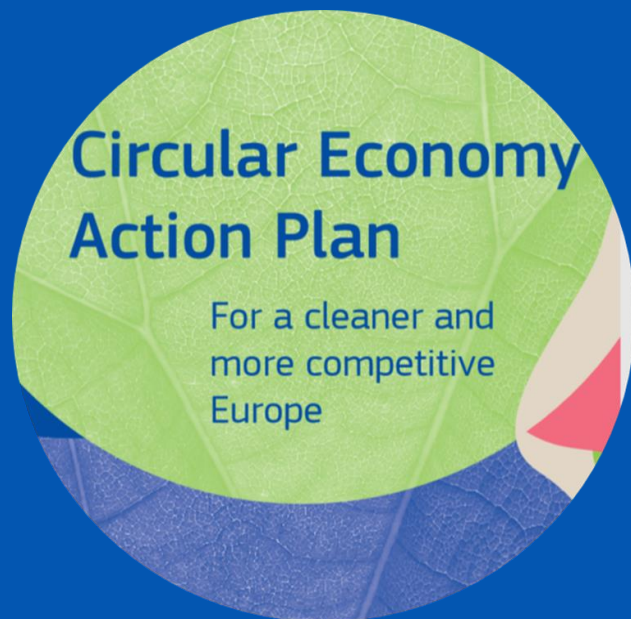


Policy framework on biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics



*26 January 2023
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**A climate-neutral,
resource-efficient and
competitive economy**



Maintaining the value of products,
materials and resources in the economy
for as long as possible, & minimising the
generation of waste

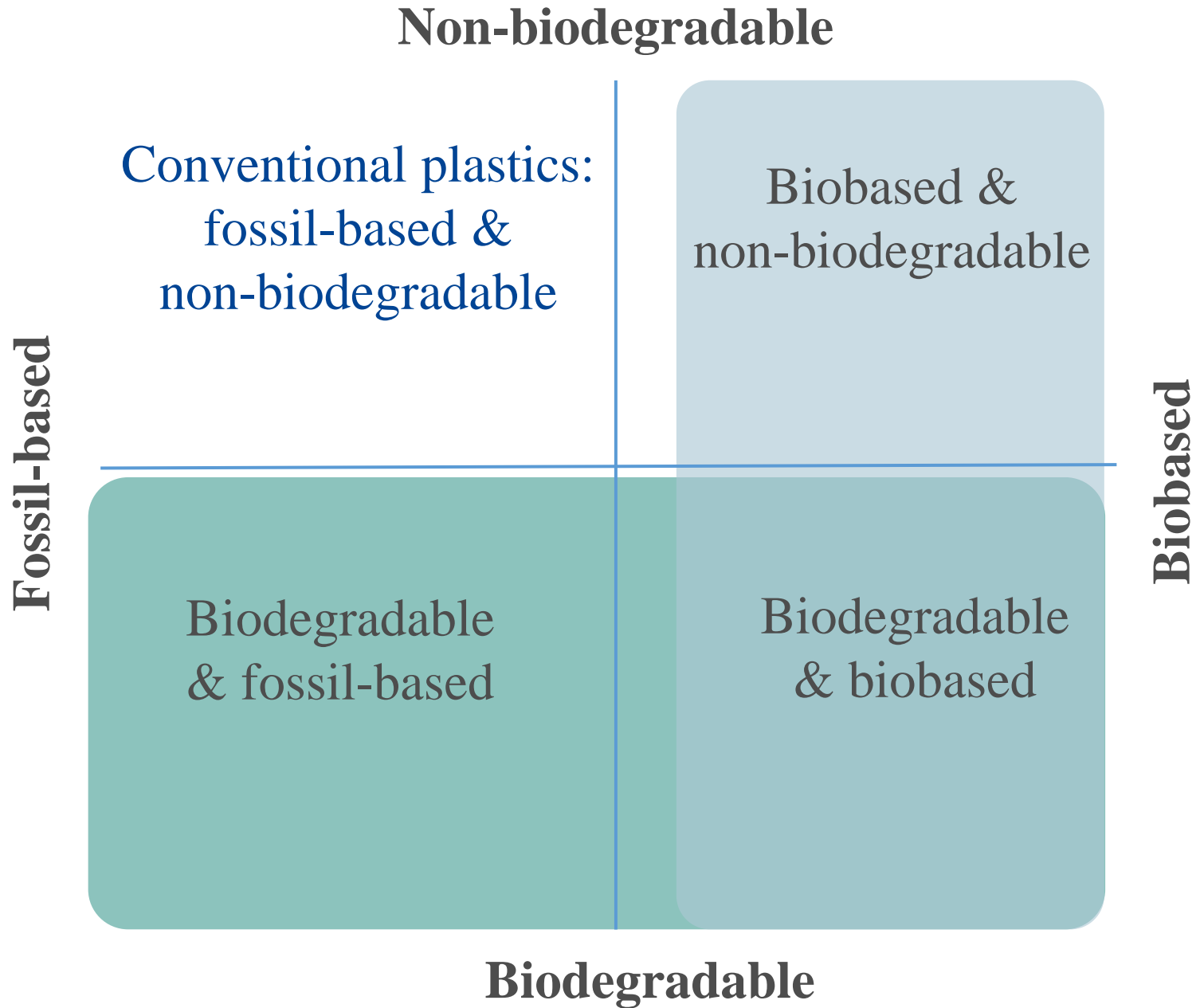


*Improving the economics
and quality of recycling &
curbing plastic waste &
littering*

Why a policy framework on these plastics?

- Perceived as 'good' or 'better' for the environment
- Today a niche market, tomorrow?
- To guide policy & market towards **environmental benefits**





A clarifying policy framework

- Priority to **reduce**, **reuse** and **recycle**
- No perpetuating single use models
- No **generic** claims, e.g. *bioplastics*

Proposal for directive on

‘empowering consumers for the green transition’

- Yes to genuinely sustainable alternatives & transparency



Biobased plastics

- **Biomass content** to be specified;
C¹⁴ method (mass balance accounting)
- Priority to **secondary** vs primary **biomass**
cascading use of biomass
long-lived vs short-lived **products**
- **Sustainability criteria** to comply with:
 - RED III – land use and biodiversity
 - GHG – research needed



Biodegradable plastics

- Biodegradation = **system property**
- To specify $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{timeframe} - \text{not to harm environment} \\ \text{receiving environment} - \text{risk of transfer to other media} \end{array} \right.$
- To limit to **specific applications** where full removal not possible
 - **Mulch films** are a good example;
Standard to be revised, e.g. to cover other applications
 - No claims on biodegradation for **litter-prone products**



Compostable plastics

- Only **industrially** compostable plastics that are **collected**
 - Route to be specified (pictograms)
- Only for **specific applications**
 - **Compostable bags to collect biowaste**
 - **Few packaging applications**

(Other packaging => material recycling)

 - Standard to be revised, e.g. to include additives
- ❖ **Home composting** \approx **open environment**



R&I funding

- **GHG emissions** of biobased vs fossil-based plastics
- **Biodegradable & recyclable**
- **Biodegradation** processes:
 - transfer to other media, long term effects, timeframe
 - claims & littering?



International aspects

- Global value chains
- To pursue the **objectives** of this communication
- Standards



refuse



share



reuse



return
&
collect



sort



recycle



Learn more about the plastics and the circular economy:

[Circular economy action plan \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-communications/pages/2018-06-14-Circular-economy-action-plan) & [Plastics \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip18_110)



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