

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001592/25
to the Commission**

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(22 April 2025)

Subject: Biobased plastics: towards an EU industrial strategy to close the recycled plastics gap and reduce waste imports?

Europe's chemicals industry is lacking in recycled plastics: it has the capacity for 4.6 million tonnes, and will need 12 million tonnes by 2030. Compostable, biobased plastics are an environmentally friendly solution and represent a potential production of 2.8 million tonnes by 2027. They could cut CO₂ emissions 30-80% and use European agricultural starch, which would create added value totalling more than EUR 500 million every year. by

Delays to the review of biobased plastics by Article 8 of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive could hold up these sustainable alternatives and cause a 35% increase of plastic waste imports into the EU.

Composting standards (EN 13432) need to be urgently revised. Speeding up revision could create 160 000 jobs, add EUR 37 billion to the EU's GDP by 2030 and increase industrial investment by 45% in three years.

1. Can the Commission speed up the review of biobased plastics by 2028 established by Article 8 of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation?
2. Does the Commission intend to review composting standards and develop an industrial strategy for bioplastics?

Submitted: 22.4.2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(30 June 2025)

The Commission supports circular and sustainable consumption and production of biological resources for materials and services. To create a market for biobased material, the Commission is assessing the possibility to anticipate the review of biobased feedstock in plastic packaging as required in Article 8(1) of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) ⁽¹⁾.

Concerning certain composting standards that would apply for some applications or in some instances, and according to Article 9(6) of the PPWR, the Commission shall request the European standardisation organisations to prepare or update harmonised standards laying down the detailed technical specifications of the requirements on compostable packaging by 12 February 2026. In this context, the Commission will also request harmonised standards of home compostability ⁽²⁾.

Such standards should be based on the latest scientific and technological developments ⁽³⁾, including verification ensuring that the compostable packaging is effectively biologically decomposed ⁽⁴⁾.

The Commission intends to present a new EU Bioeconomy Strategy in 2025 to drive forward the market-scale development of biobased materials and technologies for their manufacturing.

As identified by the recent Competitiveness Compass ⁽⁵⁾, the new EU Bioeconomy Strategy is a crucial deliverable under the 'innovation pillar' to unleash the potential for EU industries, including bioplastics.

In particular, the Clean Industrial Deal ⁽⁶⁾ has highlighted the need to harness the substitution potential of biobased materials as a key pathway to a fossil-free economy.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2025/40 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2024 on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC, OJ L, 2025/40, 22.1.2025. The PPWR mandates the Commission within three years after its entry into force date to review the state of technological development and environmental performance of biobased plastic packaging. The outcome of this review might possibly lead to a new legislative proposal, laying down sustainability requirements and targets for inclusion of biobased feedstock in plastic packaging.

⁽²⁾ Pursuant to Article 9(1) of the PPWR.

⁽³⁾ Parameters such as retention times, temperatures and stirring, which reflect the actual conditions in home composts and in bio-waste treatment facilities, including anaerobic digestion processes.

⁽⁴⁾ Biological decomposition subject to the specified parameters results ultimately in conversion into carbon dioxide or, in absence of oxygen, methane, and mineral salts, biomass and water.

⁽⁵⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_339.

⁽⁶⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/clean-industrial-deal_en.