

25.10.2018 – 11:00 Uhr

Reduction of single-use plastics needs to tie in with circular economy actions and consumption realities in Europe

Berlin (ots) -

The European Parliament approved yesterday its report on the draft Directive on Marine Pollution and Single-use Plastics. "European Bioplastics fully supports the transition from a linear to a circular economy. Bioplastics enable more sustainable solutions for a range of products", says François de Bie, Chairman of European Bioplastics (EUBP). "We agree on the importance of reducing single-use plastic products where feasible, but hygiene and food safety cannot be compromised. With regard to some of the concerned single-use products - such as e.g. plates and cutlery -, biodegradable certified compostable plastics provide an organically recyclable alternative".

EUBP considers the Parliament's decision to restrict the use of single-use cutlery and plates as not sufficiently considering the reality of food consumption in Europe. In certain closed-loop contexts, such as canteens, air travel, or sport and music events, these are an indispensable and efficient solution to guarantee safety and hygiene for food and drinks while ensuring at the same time waste collection and recycling.

Biodegradable certified compostable plastics fulfil Europe's rigorous requirements and standards for health and safety and can be recycled organically together with the food waste.

EUBP fully supports the Parliament's suggestion to restrict products made from oxo-degradable plastics, which is in line with earlier statements by the Parliament and the European Commission in the context of the EU Plastics Strategy.

Concerning biodegradability in the marine environment, EUBP stresses that it is an interesting property. However, it needs to be clearly defined for which materials, products and under which circumstances this property is of added value. Improving waste management on land and building efficient mechanical and organic recycling infrastructures across Europe remain a priority when it comes to fighting marine pollution.

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Original content of: European Bioplastics, transmitted by news aktuell

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