



# OXO-BIODEGRADABLE PLASTICS ASSOCIATION

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PRESS RELEASE

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The OPA was delighted to see that the attempt by Margrete Auken and the Italians to ban oxo-biodegradable plastics was not accepted by the Council of Member-states. Mrs. Auken and the Parliament were advised by Environment Commissioner Potocnik in April that it was not appropriate to put this into EU legislation without a full study by the Commission of all types of biodegradable plastic. They ignored him and their plans have now been rightly rejected.

However, the OPA welcomes the Parliament's request to the Commission to make a study of biodegradable plastics. It is important that all types of biodegradable plastics are studied, and not just oxo-biodegradable.

The OPA will participate fully in this study and we will adduce independent scientific evidence by experts in oxo-biodegradable technology from France, Sweden, Italy, the UK, Brasil, Canada and Australia who have all found that the plastic is converted into biodegradable materials and not into fragments of plastic, and that the residues are not toxic.

See the latest statement by French scientists at

<http://www.biodeg.org/files/uploaded/French%20academics%20criticise%20EU%20for%20failing%20to%20understand%20oxo-biodegradable%20plastics%2014.11.14.pdf>

Other independent scientific reports and practical experience will show that oxo-biodegradable plastic bags can be safely recycled into new plastic bags.

It is time that the myths about oxo-biodegradable plastics peddled by the bioplastics and recycling lobbies are shown once and for all for the nonsense they are. This will also be an opportunity to prove the very many disadvantages of bio-based plastic which make it unsuitable for anything other than niche applications. An LCA by Intertek, published by the UK Government in 2011 and a further LCA by Intertek in 2012<sup>1</sup> have already found that ordinary plastic and oxo-bio shopping bags have a better LCA than bio-based plastic bags.

When the credentials of oxo-biodegradable technology have been proved to the Commission we would expect to see it adopted by the EU to deal with the problem of plastic waste which gets into the outdoor environment and cannot realistically be collected. At present they have no policy for this. They talk a lot about recycling, but you cannot recycle plastic if you cannot collect it.

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<sup>1</sup>[http://www.biodeg.org/files/uploaded/biodeg/executive\\_summary/Intertek%20Final%20Report%2015.5.12\(1\).pdf](http://www.biodeg.org/files/uploaded/biodeg/executive_summary/Intertek%20Final%20Report%2015.5.12(1).pdf)