

German Environment Agency



Umwelt
Bundesamt

Reinventing Plastics – Closing the Circle

IG Plastics

Recommendation on Bioplastics

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Introduction IG Plastics



European Network of the Heads of Environment Protection Agencies

IG Plastics consists of 13 EPAs

- Austria
- Denmark
- Finland
- Germany
- Iceland
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Portugal
- Romania
- Scotland
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Switzerland

The image shows the cover of a report titled "Recommendations toward the EU Plastics Strategy" from the Interest Group Plastics (IG Plastics). The cover features logos for the EPA Network, the European Union, and the German Federal Environment Agency (Umwelt Bundesamt). The main text on the cover reads: "Welcome to the European Expert Conference RECOMMENDATIONS TOWARDS THE EU PLASTICS STRATEGY". Below this, it states "9th of June 2017" and "Albert Borschette Congress Centre, Brussels". The bottom of the cover features a photograph of many green plastic bottles.

Interest Group Plastics (IG Plastics)
Input on EU Plastics Strategy
With the participation of the IG Plastics Members Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Scotland, Spain, and Switzerland

23.1.2017

Interest Group Plastics
March 2017

IG Plastics
Recommendations toward the EU Plastics Strategy
from a group of members of the EPA Network

Preface

of the EPA Network. The idea to
nating Plastic and Microplastic Pol-
to specifically work on plastics as
on Plan. This was agreed with the
s thematically closely related. The
puts into the environment, as it is
ans stem from land, however with

m European Environment Agencies
, Germany, Netherlands, Norway,
and. The group takes an interdisci-
lds, such as waste management or
y-to-day practical experience with
Plastics to identify relevant policy

o published by Directorate General
tegy is outlined. Developed within
Plastics Strategy seeks to promote
ducts and plastic waste. The group
d with elastomers, thermosets and
unwanted plastic inputs out of the

cs Strategy seeks new
y is to keep unwanted
losses and littering as

ber of benefits for our
earth as material itself
armful organisms have
xes and sources of plas-
time, it is important to
ling and analysis tech-
human health.

Circular Economy and
ated to plastics as well
tal compartments. The
ns relevant for the EU
al level.

ycle is fully closed as
uring the transport of
al practices. Depending
e environment are al-
edia should be consid-
t concepts need to be

such as outdoor furni-
agriculture, standard-
should be considered.
into the environment
recycling is that down-
he associated unknown
It is essential to find a

IG Plastics Recommendation on Bioplastics

- Avoid broad use of biodegradable plastics unless they degrade fast in natural conditions (both land and marine);
 - Avoid so-called oxo- degradables;
- Ensure uniform definitions and standards for biodegradable plastics.

IG Plastics Recommendation on Bioplastics



Bio-derived plastics

- Competition for land
- Threat to sensitive habitats
- Careful assessment of ecological footprint



Biodegradable plastics

IG Plastics Recommendation on Bioplastics

- Degrade under lab conditions
- Risk that littering increases
- Difficult to recycle
- No solution to marine litter
- Part of linear economy



Biodegradable plastics



Pics: Vaverkova et al, Evaluation of biodegradability of plastic bags in composting conditions

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