

ANFA Conference

European regulations impacting biodegradability of nonwoven products

Murat Dogru

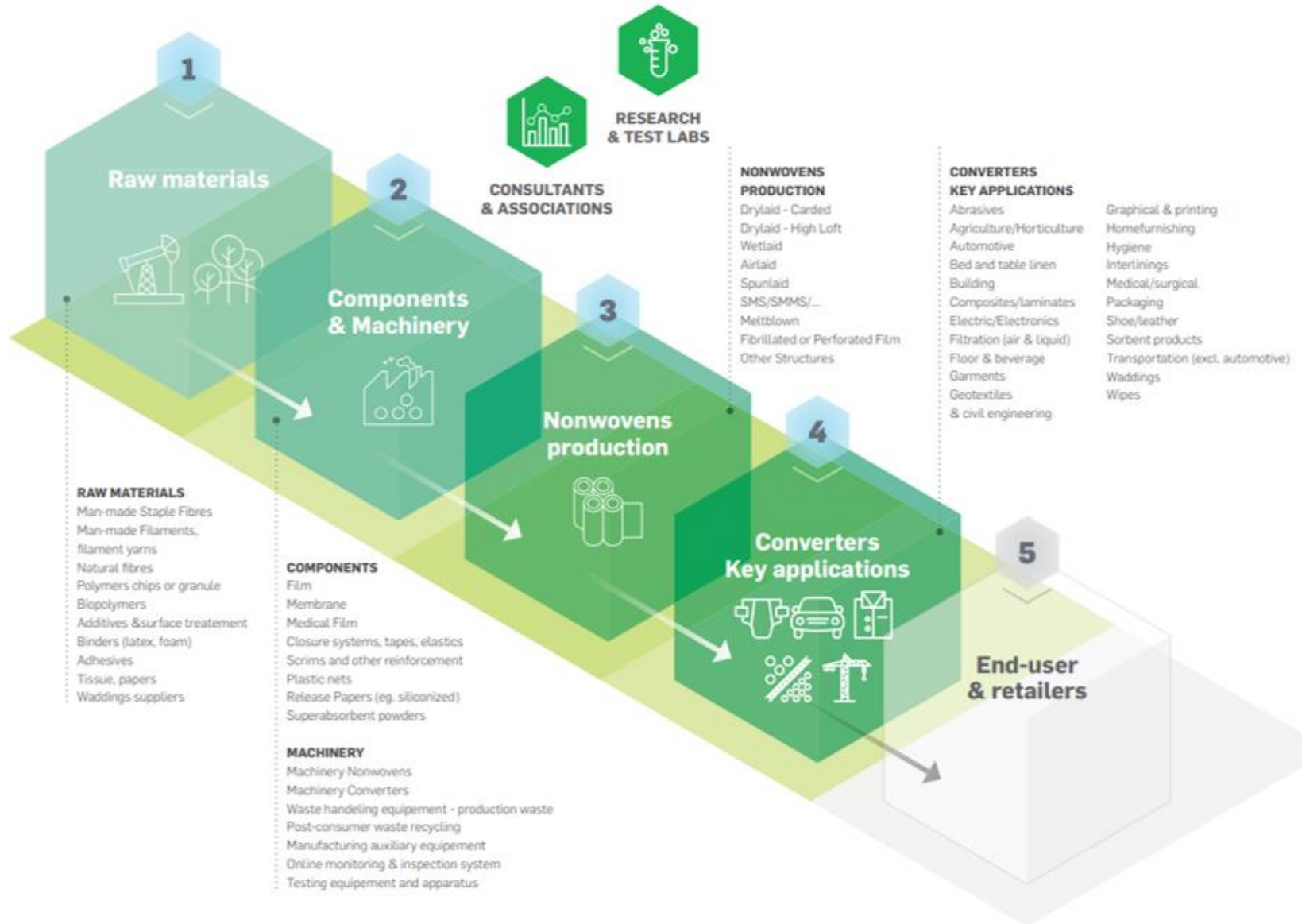


Who we are



THE ENTIRE NONWOVENS VALUE CHAIN

EDANA +310 member companies supply products and services ranging from raw materials to finished products and everything in between, including machinery, special ingredients, development and testing facilities. Materials often used with nonwovens, such as films and superabsorbent polymers are also represented.





SUPD

TOP 10 ITEMS FOUND ON BEACHES

10 most common plastic objects found on European beaches



Cigarette butts



Food containers



Drink bottles



Bags



Crisp packets/
sweet wrappers

Single-use plastic items represent
50%
of marine litter



Balloons and balloon sticks



Cups & lids



Cutlery, straws & stirrers



Cotton buds



Sanitary applications

SINGLE USE PLASTICS DIRECTIVE (SUPD)



EPR (not femcare)

- Costs of the awareness raising measures
- Costs to clean up litter

Awareness raising measures by EU Member States

WHAT IS A PLASTIC?



means a material consisting of a polymer as defined in [REACH] to which additives or other substances may have been added, and which can function as a main structural component of final products, with the exception of natural polymers that have not been chemically modified

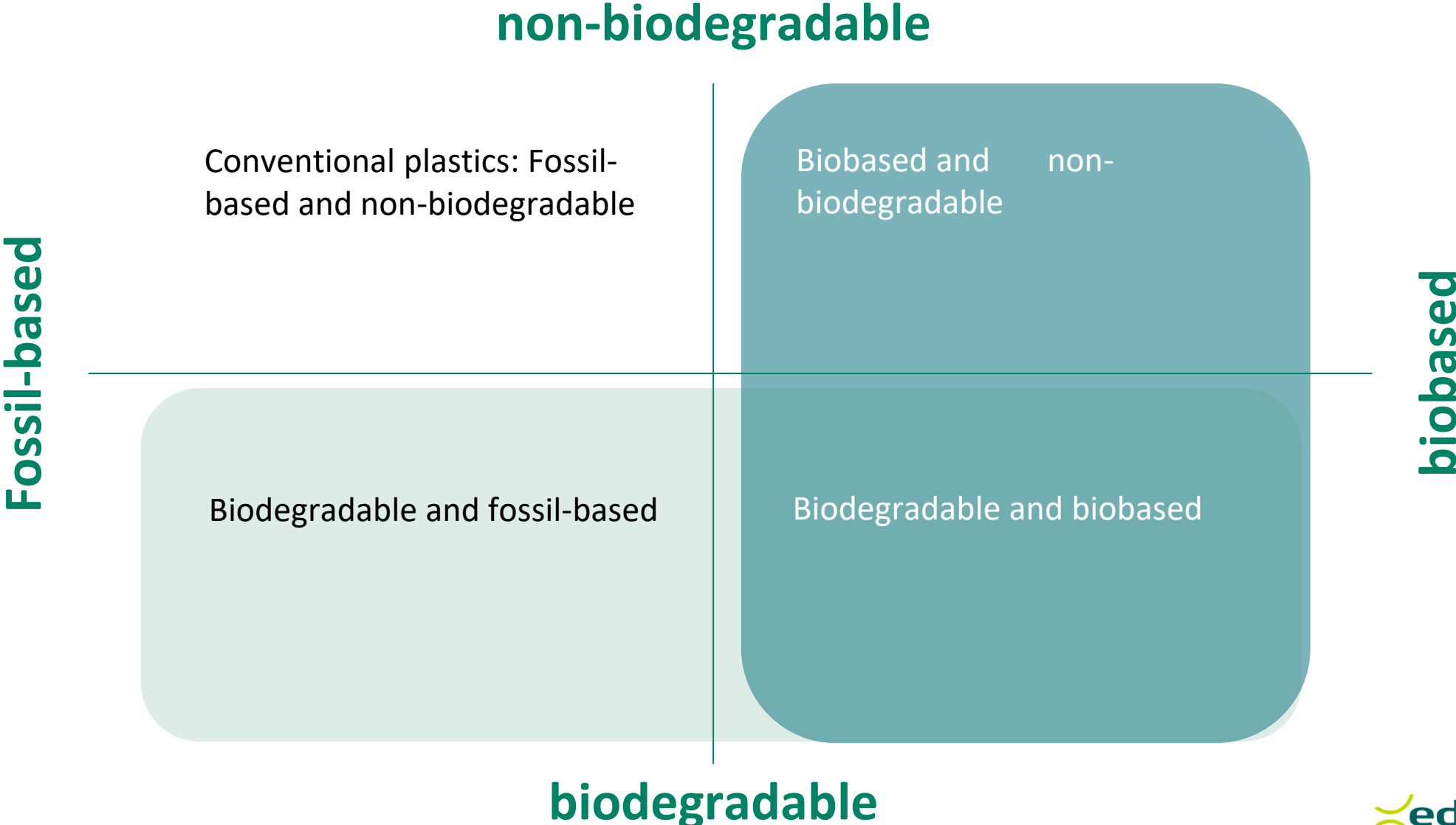
The SUPD includes all biobased and biodegradable plastics

The SUPD bans oxo-degradable plastics

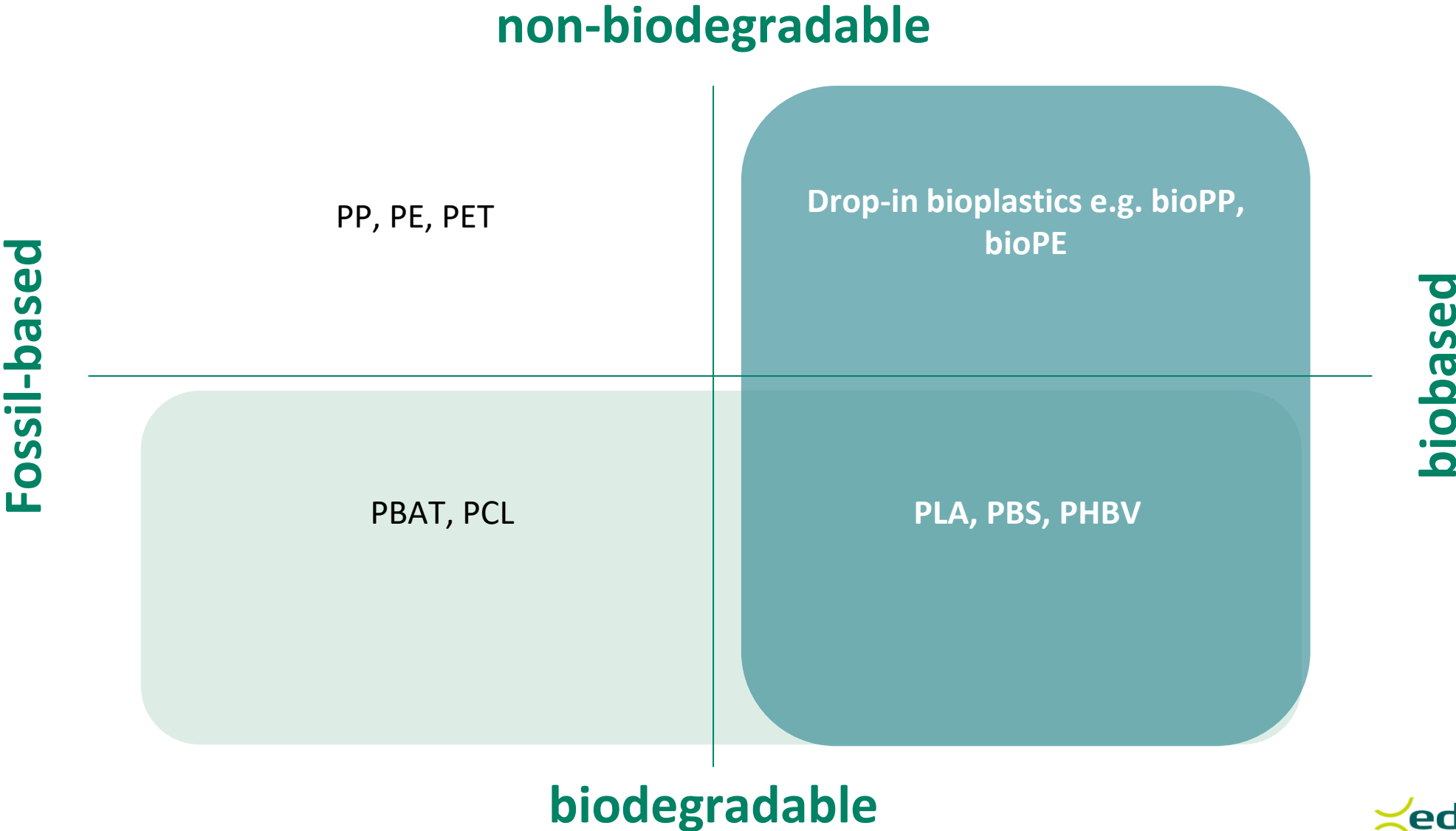
BIOPLASTICS



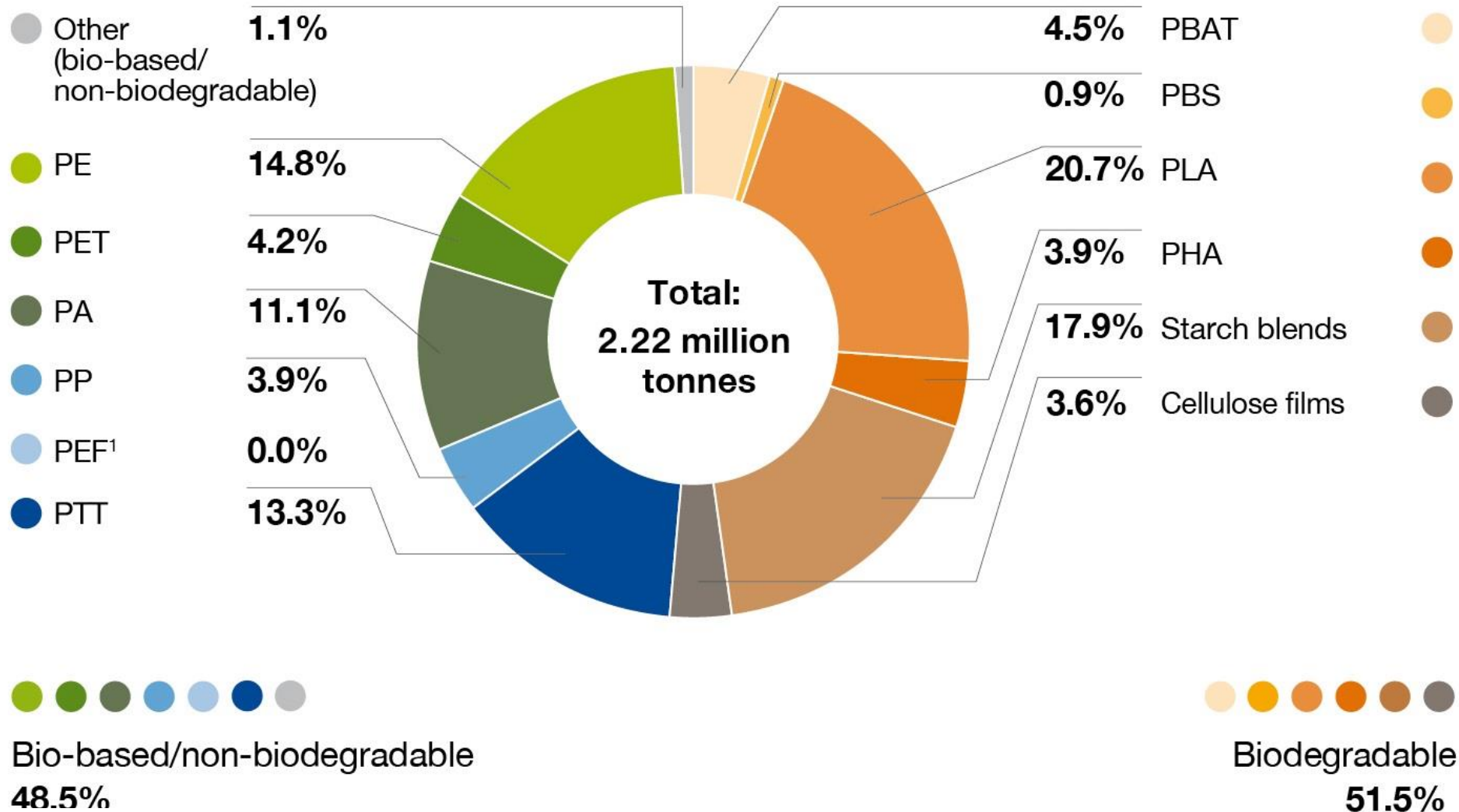
WHAT ARE BIOPLASTICS?



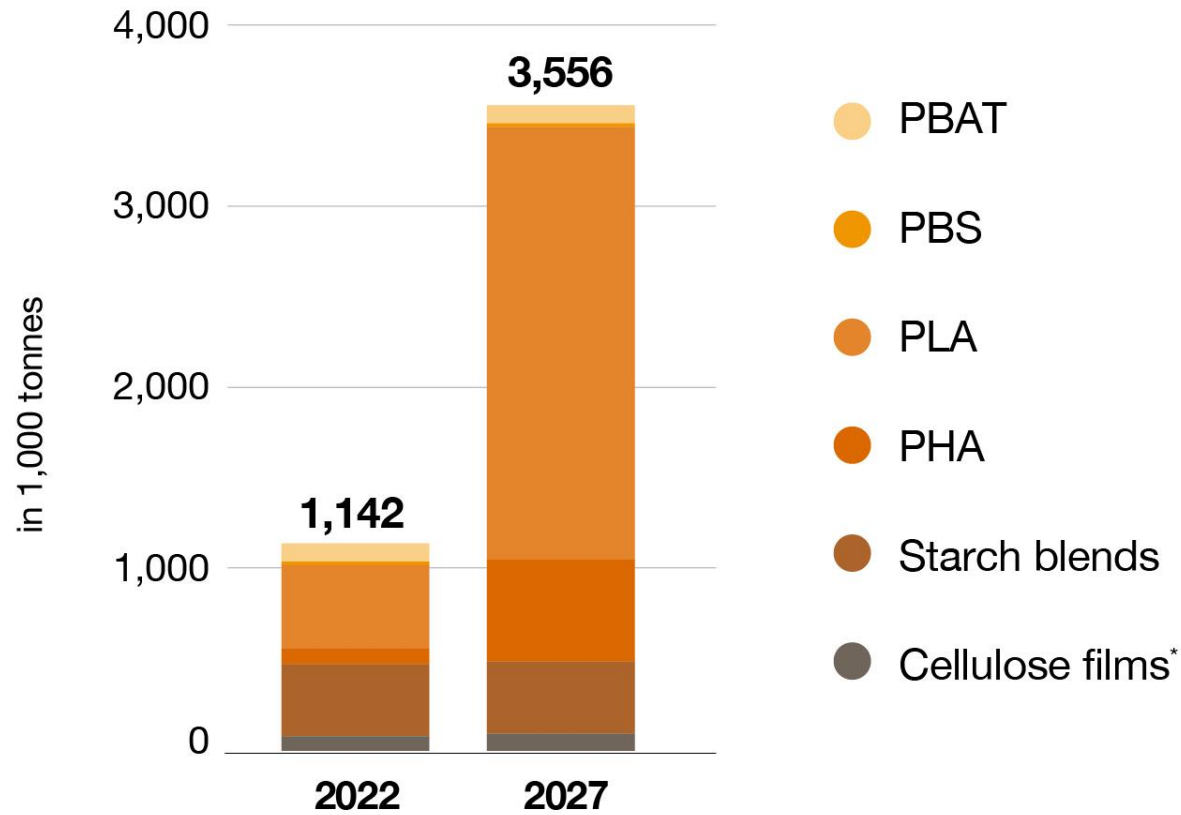
WHAT ARE BIOPLASTICS?



Global production capacities of bioplastics 2022 (by material type)



Biodegradable bioplastics 2022 vs. 2027



0,003% of total plastic production worldwide 390.7 Mt

*Regenerated cellulose films

Source: European Bioplastics, nova-Institute (2022).
More information: www.european-bioplastics.org/market and www.bio-based.eu/markets

BIOPLASTIC FRAMEWORK

EU policy framework on biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics



Limit the use of biodegradable plastics in the open environment **only to specific applications for which reduction, reuse or recycling are not feasible.**

Such plastics should **not** be considered **as a solution** for inappropriate waste management or littering.

Coherent and **science-based testing** and certification standards should be developed

BIOPLASTIC FRAMEWORK

EU policy framework on biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics



Additives used to manufacture biodegradable or compostable plastics should **biodegrade safely** and not be harmful for the environment.

Plastics labelled as ‘biodegradable’ must always specify the receiving open environment for which they are intended and the **required timeframe** for their biodegradation, in terms of weeks, months or years.

BIOPLASTIC FRAMEWORK

EU policy framework on biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics

Industrially compostable plastics should only be used for specific applications when the environmental benefits are higher than their alternatives and when they do not have a negative impact on the quality of the compost;

Examples: fruit and vegetable stickers, tea bags and filter coffee pods, as well as very light plastic carrier bags although alternatives with no packaging or reusable alternatives are to be preferred

Among the range of potential non-packaging applications for compostable plastics, absorbent hygienic products merit particular attention.



PACKAGING AND PACKAGING WASTE DIRECTIVE

Compostable and prescribes that filter coffee pods, sticky labels attached to fruit and vegetables and very lightweight plastic carrier bags shall be compostable by 24 months after the entry into force of this Regulation.



MICROPLASTIC RESTRICTION

Intentionally added microplastics



Exemptions for:

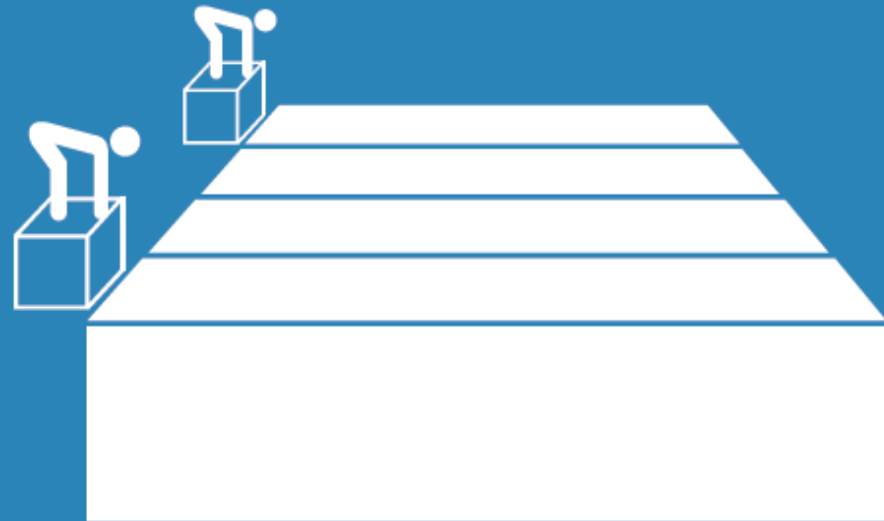
- a) Non chemically modified natural polymers
- b) **Biodegradable polymers**
- c) Polymers with solubility > 2 g/L
- d) Polymers that do not contain carbon atoms in their chemical structure

UNINTENTIONAL RELEASE OF MICROPLASTICS

Microplastics released into the environment



Between 200 and 600 Olympic-size swimming pools of microplastics unintentionally released into the environment every year in the EU



Main sources of unintentional microplastics release to the EU environment

Lower and higher estimates (2019 - tonnes/year)



Paints

863 000
231 000



Tyres

540 000
360 000



Pellets

184 290
52 140



Textiles

61 078
1 649



Geotextiles

19 750
6 000

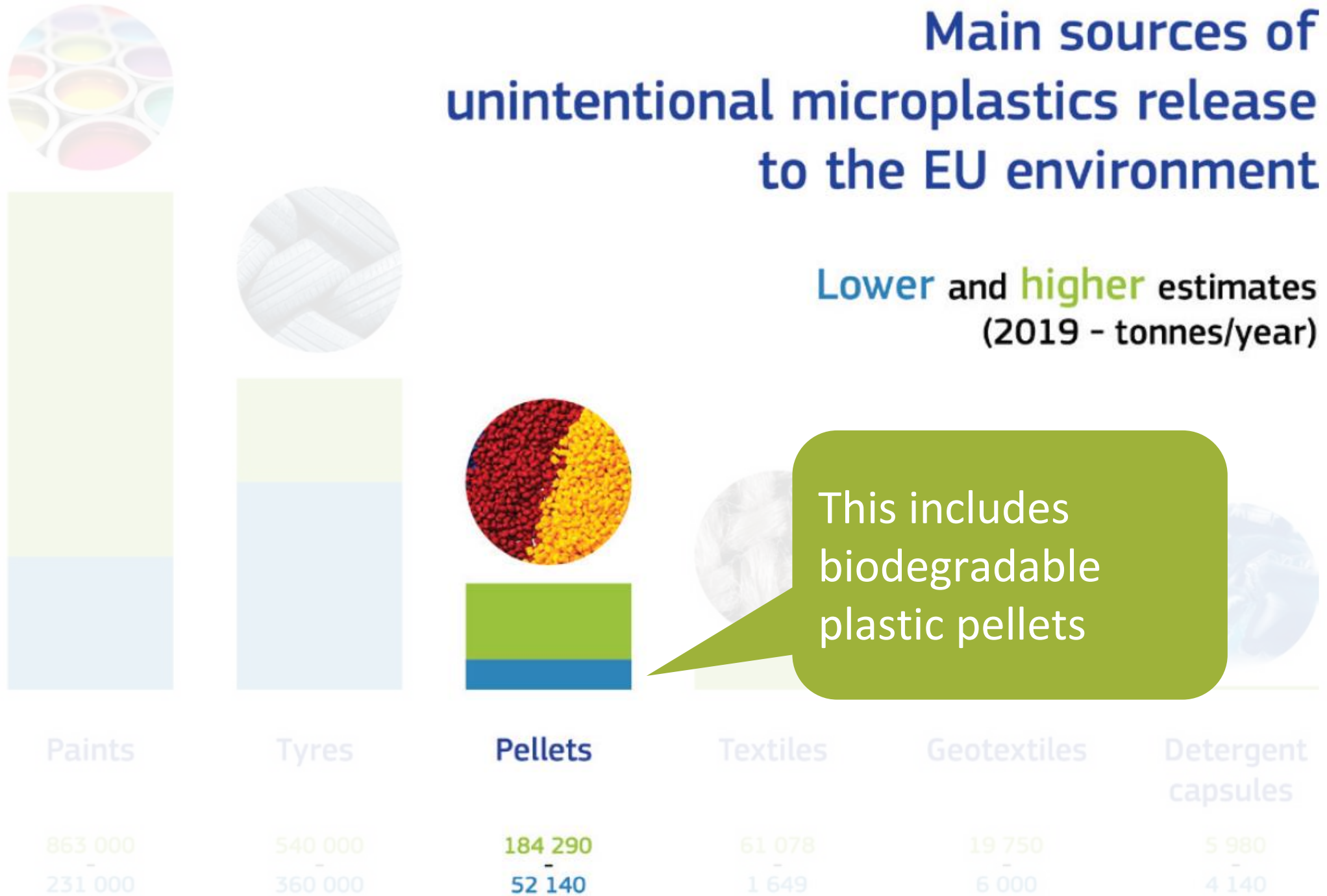


Detergent capsules

5 980
4 140

Main sources of unintentional microplastics release to the EU environment

Lower and higher estimates (2019 - tonnes/year)



Unintentional release of microplastics

Not in scope of the current revision, but ...

Some geotextile materials are used to keep plants in place while they root.

One policy measure could be:
the mandatory use of biodegradable
and bio-based materials





GREEN CLAIMS

Empowering consumers for the green transition



**« MAKE GREEN CLAIMS RELIABLE, COMPARABLE
AND VERIFIABLE ACCROSS THE EU, TO PROCTER
CONSUMERS FROM GREEN WASHING »**

Green Claims directive

ECO-FRIENDLY

BIODEGRADABLE

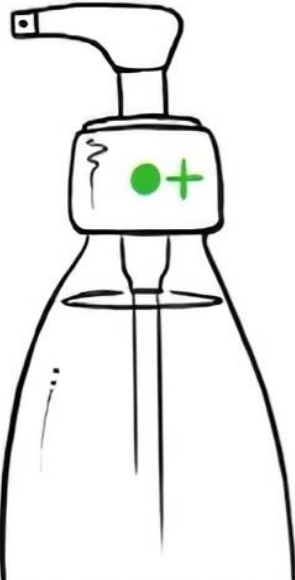


04 €

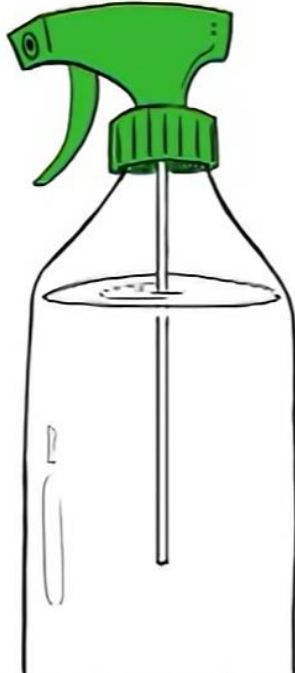
GREEN



05 €

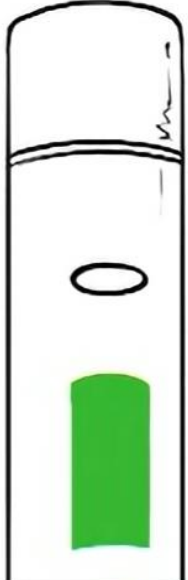


06 €



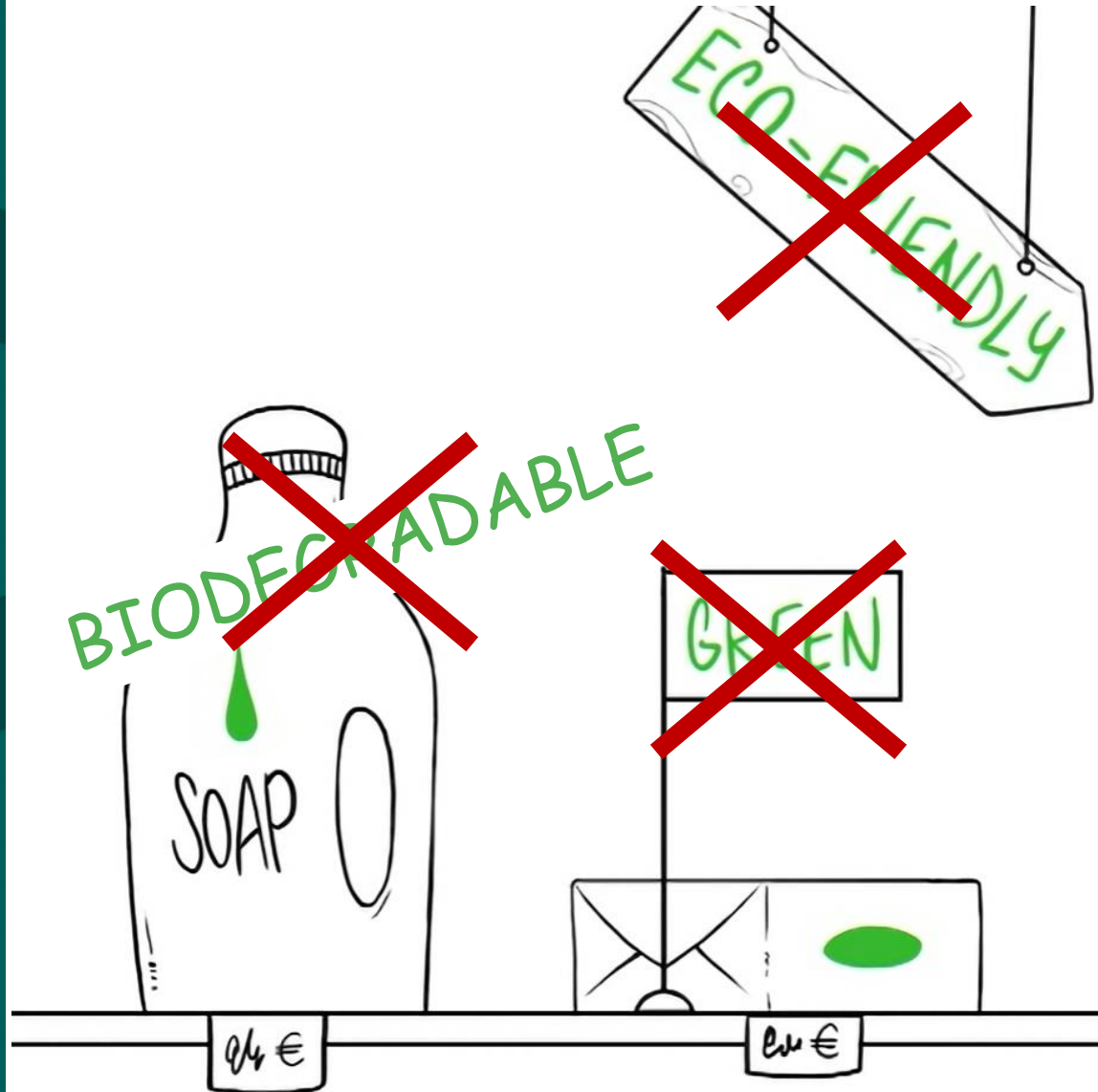
07 €

ALL NATURAL



08 €

How to make green claims



EU institutions are developing different legislations on green claims

Not: biodegradable

But e.g., “the packaging is biodegradable through home composting in one month”

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Thank You

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