



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND  
SMEs  
Chemicals and Consumer Industries  
**Director**

Brussels  
GROW.DDG1.D.2 

By email:  [@sateri.com](mailto: @sateri.com)

Dear Mr ,

Thank you for your e-mail of 4 March 2020 to our Director General, on whose behalf I am replying. In your message, you bring to our attention that the definition of plastic in Directive (EU) 2019/904 – also known as Single-Use Plastics Directive – would include natural fibres that have not been chemically modified without scientific justification.

Let me first clarify, and reassure you, that the objective of the Directive is not to ban materials from the circulation in the Internal Market. It is instead to prevent that the value of a very good material – like plastics – is lost in a single-use application, thus often contributing to the harmful phenomenon of plastics littering in the natural environment, with heavy consequences on the quality of fresh and marine water, as well as on biodiversity.

Having this in mind, the co-legislators agreed on a definition of plastics that is based on the definition of polymer as defined in art. 3.5 of the REACH Regulation, with some additional points aimed at including materials whose environmental behaviour is comparable to plastics (like chemically modified bamboo) and some exemptions, aimed at excluding those natural polymers whose chemical structure has not been modified (e.g. wood, cotton, pulp, etc).

We take note of your concerns and we will share the information you submitted with our colleagues in DG Environment, who are responsible for the drafting of the implementing acts and the guidelines for an effective implementation.

I encourage you to submit further scientific evidence that the material you have mentioned in your letter should not be subject to the measures of the Single-Use Plastics Directive, whenever you deem necessary to do so. Should you need any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact our colleagues of DG Environment at the following email address: ENV-B03-ARES@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

e-signed

**Carlo PETTINELLI**  
Director