



# **A LEADING PLASTIC BAG PRODUCER DEDICATED TO A BETTER ENVIRONMENT**

**FIRMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
G 7 - Bologna - June 11, 2017**

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John PERSENDA  
Chairman - SPHERE Group  
[www.sphere.eu](http://www.sphere.eu)

# SPHERE GROUP

**FOUNDED IN 1976 IN FRANCE**, SPHERE is still independent and has become a mid-size European Group and a European leader with :



Plants: 14



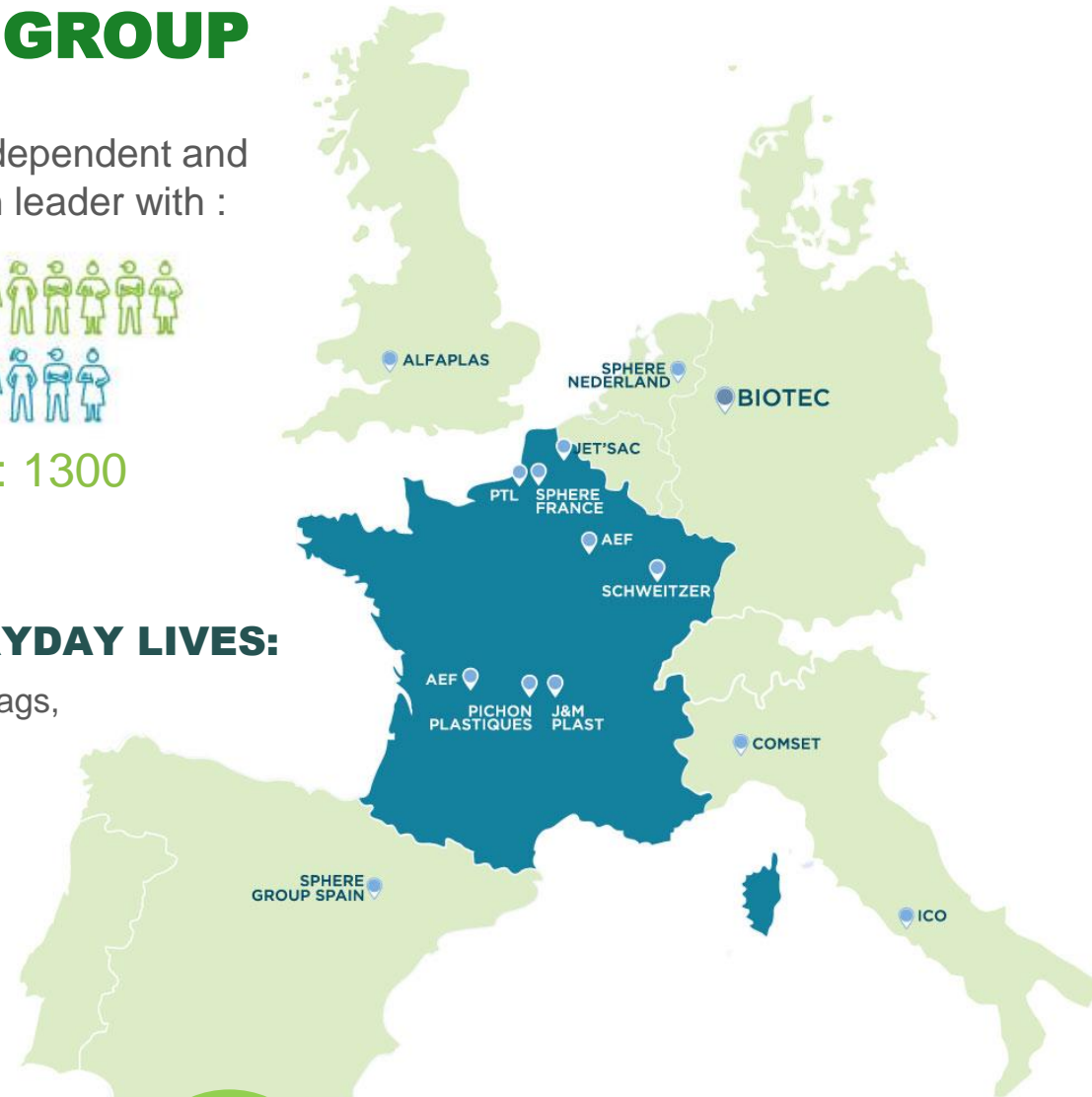
Sales: €600 M



Employees: 1300

## A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS FOR OUR EVERYDAY LIVES:

- Plastic bags: garbage bags, freezer bags, fruit&vegetable bags, reusable carrier bags ...
- Paper bags for bread, food protection and packaging...
- Household wrappings: aluminium foil and containers, cling film, baking paper, plastic containers...
- Tableware, protective equipment...
- ... and Bioplastic compostable granules

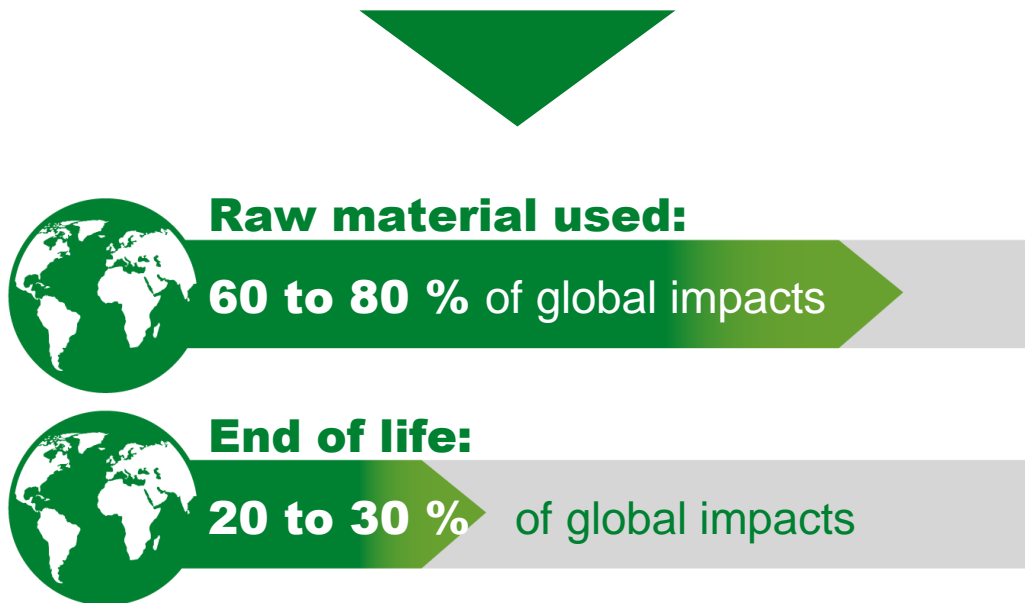


# ARE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS USEFUL?

**Not only useful but fundamental in any environmental approach.**

SPHERE started using Life Cycle Analysis in 1991.

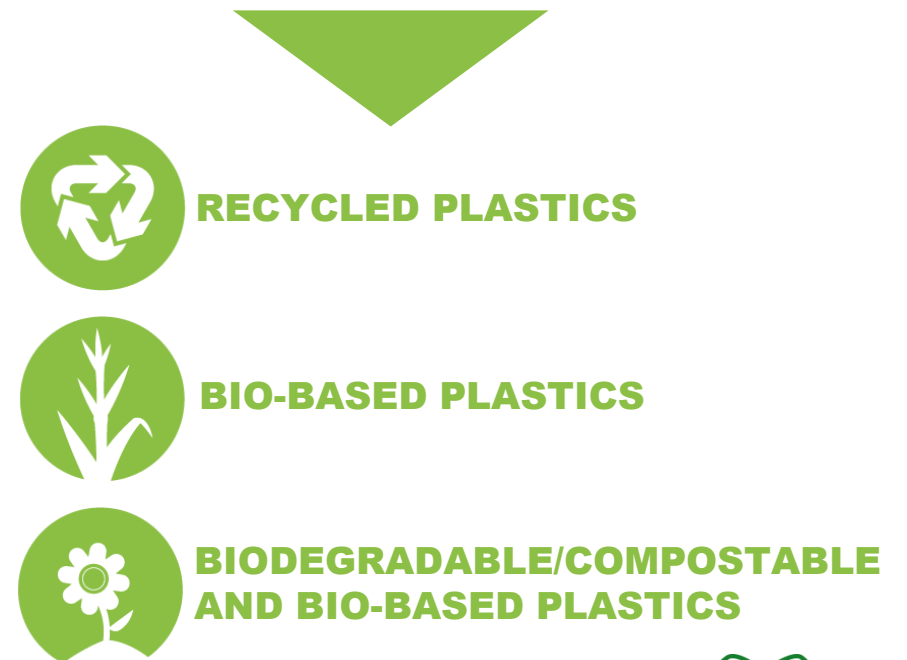
On plastic bags, LCA helped understand that the main two environmental impacts are:



## ► Main goals for SPHERE:

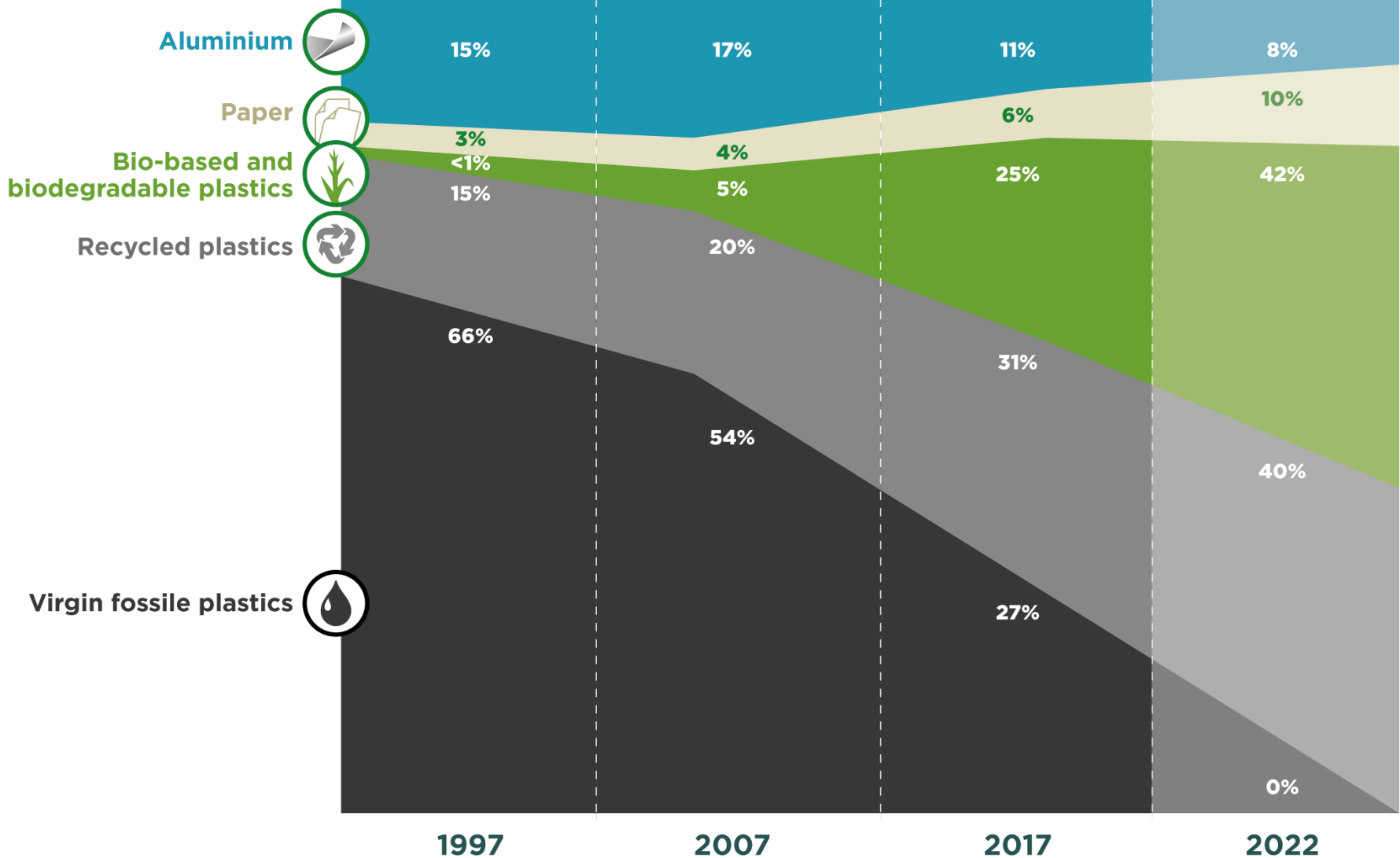
- Design products allowing the most relevant end of life solution
- Stop using fossil virgin plastic raw material

## ► A three-pillar strategy for plastic raw materials based on:



# SIGNIFICANT IMPACT OF RAW MATERIAL MIX

Share of raw materials in SPHERE production



# SPHERE STRATEGY: INNOVATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

**INNOVATING FOR  
EVERYONE'S  
LIVES IN THE FUTURE**



- To reduce dependency on oil,
- To reduce air, earth and marine pollutions
- To imagine a new development scheme
- To build more eco-friendly solutions
- To contribute to the Circular Economy

## SPHERE HAS BEEN INNOVATING FOR 40 YEARS



**RECYCLED BAGS**



Now up to 100 %  
in garbage bags



**BIO-BASED BAGS**



Vegetal Origin products  
made from biobased  
polyethylene



**BIODEGRADABLE BAGS**



**initially:** industrially  
compostable ( EN 13432 )  
**now:** Home compostable



**HYDROBIODEGRADABLE  
PLASTICS**



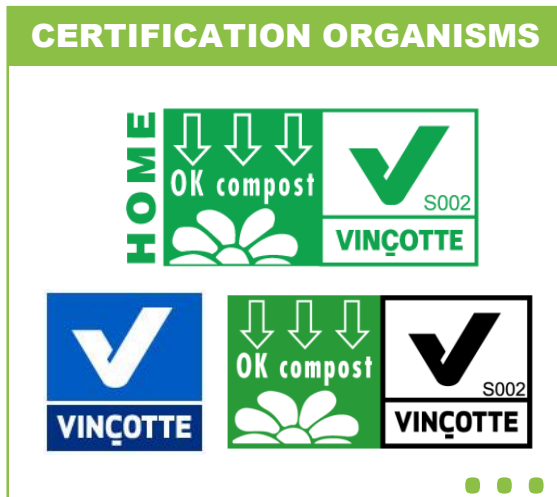
very soon, on a large scale, a  
plastic that can be bio-  
assimilated without any harm  
done to nature and animals in  
marine and fresh water  
environments

▶ **SPHERE is preparing BLUEPLAST which will be marketed next year**



# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS AND SPECIALISTS

For a medium size firm like SPHERE, such instruments and available specialists are very important



▶ SPHERE encourages the whole plastics industry to use these instruments

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- ▶ The economic world is opening up more and more.
- ▶ Regulations must help to face up to environmental problems,
- ▶ But they should not be systematically detrimental to local producers, who can be controlled more easily.
- ▶ International standards should be developed as much as possible to:
  - ensure free and fair trade
  - avoid multiplication of national standards
  - make sure that the levels of European requirements are respected
- ▶ They should be easy to test on finished products in order to make controls more realistic.

**Environmental issues deserve the involvement of all concerned : populations, ngo's, governments, firms...**

**▶ LET'S TALK AND WORK TOGETHER TO CHANGE BEHAVIOURS**



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