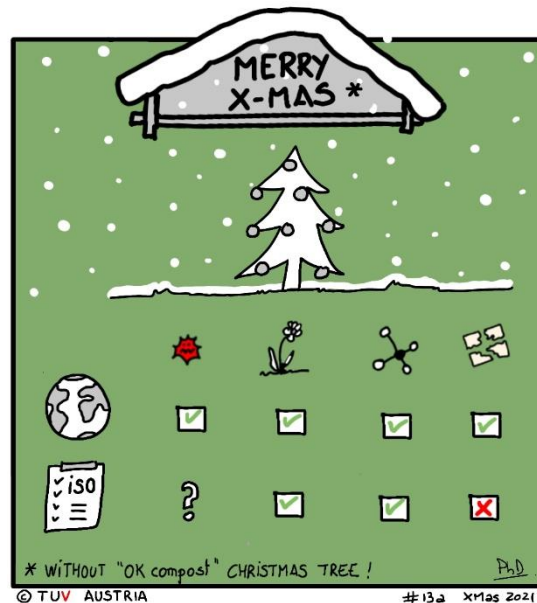


13 – Christmas tree



Since the earliest times, all plants and trees on earth biodegrade completely over time. Including Christmas trees.

Where I live in Brussels, Christmas trees have been collected in January for composting for many years.

But did you know that these Christmas trees are not compostable according to the standards applicable to man-made products?

Indeed, no problem for the assessment of regulated elements and ecotoxicity.

But the criteria for biodegradation could not be met.

In an industrial compost, pine needles would take more than a year to biodegrade, and wood fibres would take more than two, whereas the standard requires a maximum of six months. In fact, these standards explicitly state that natural products do not have to be tested for biodegradability.

In the same way, at the end of the 12 weeks stipulated by the standards, the branches of the Christmas tree would still be relatively intact in industrial composting, whereas the standards require that 90% of the product tested must pass through the mesh of a 2mm by 2mm sieve!

But don't worry, before being composted, your tree will be shredded, and the residual pieces will not interfere with the final compost.

See you in 2022 for more texts and sketches and, in the meantime, be safe and have a good Christmas period, near your tree that we will never be able to certify OK compost 😊.