

## Supporting Information

# Amino Acids as Bio-Organocatalysts in Ring-Opening Copolymerization for Eco-Friendly Synthesis of Biobased Oligomers from Vegetable Oils

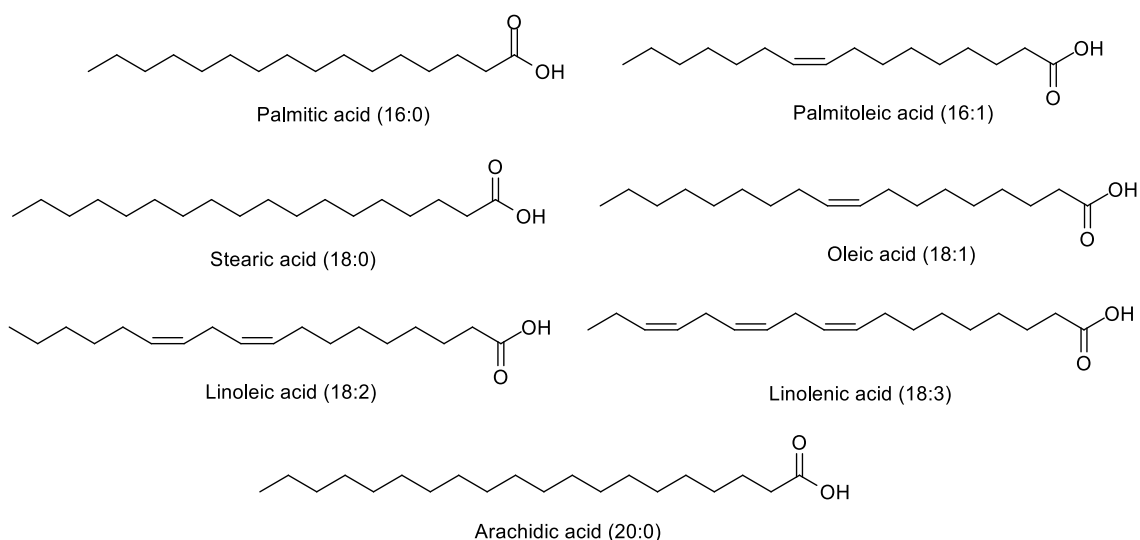
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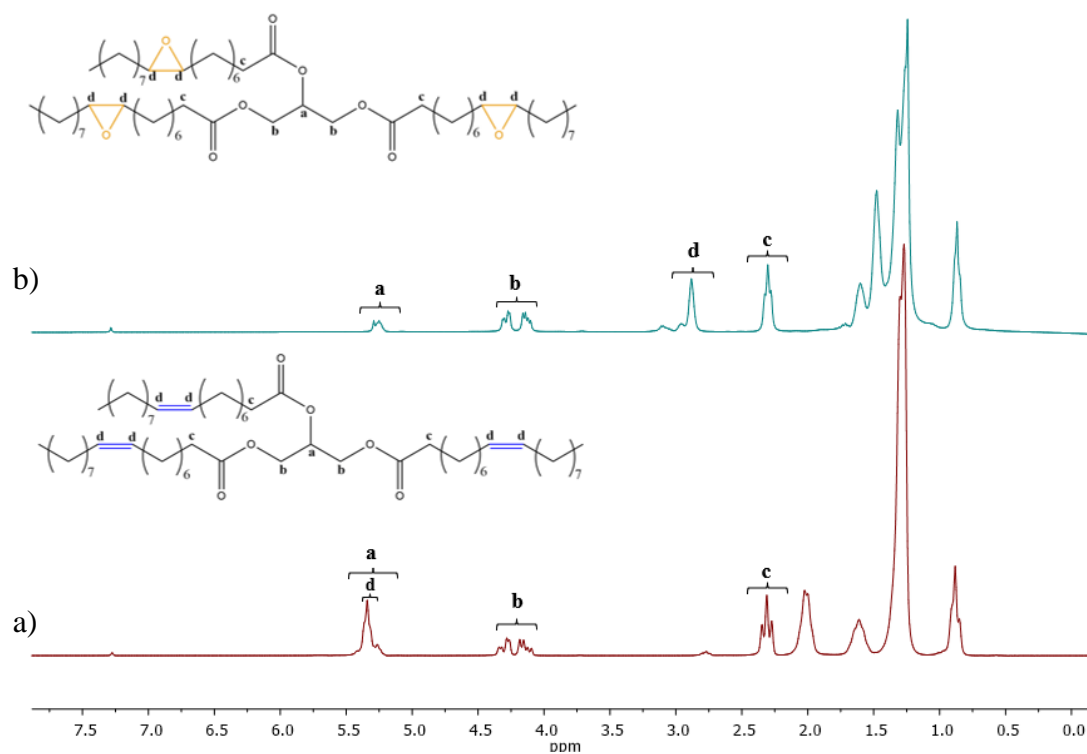


**Figure S1.** Chemical structures of fatty acids found in waste cooking olive oil, WCOO.

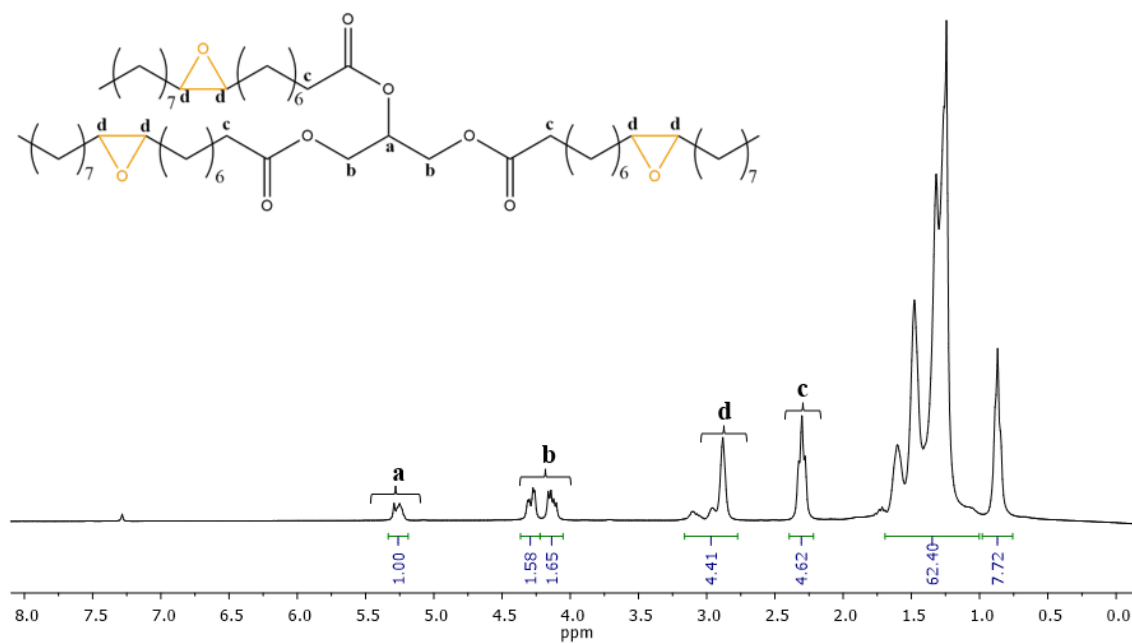
**Table S1.** Fatty acid composition of cooking olive oil.<sup>[a]</sup>

(16:0)	(16:1)	(18:0)	(18:1)	(18:2)	(18:3)	(20:0)	Ox. Num.
(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(mmol/g) <sup>a</sup>
12.53	1.02	2.17	72.07	11.10	0.71	0.40	2.92

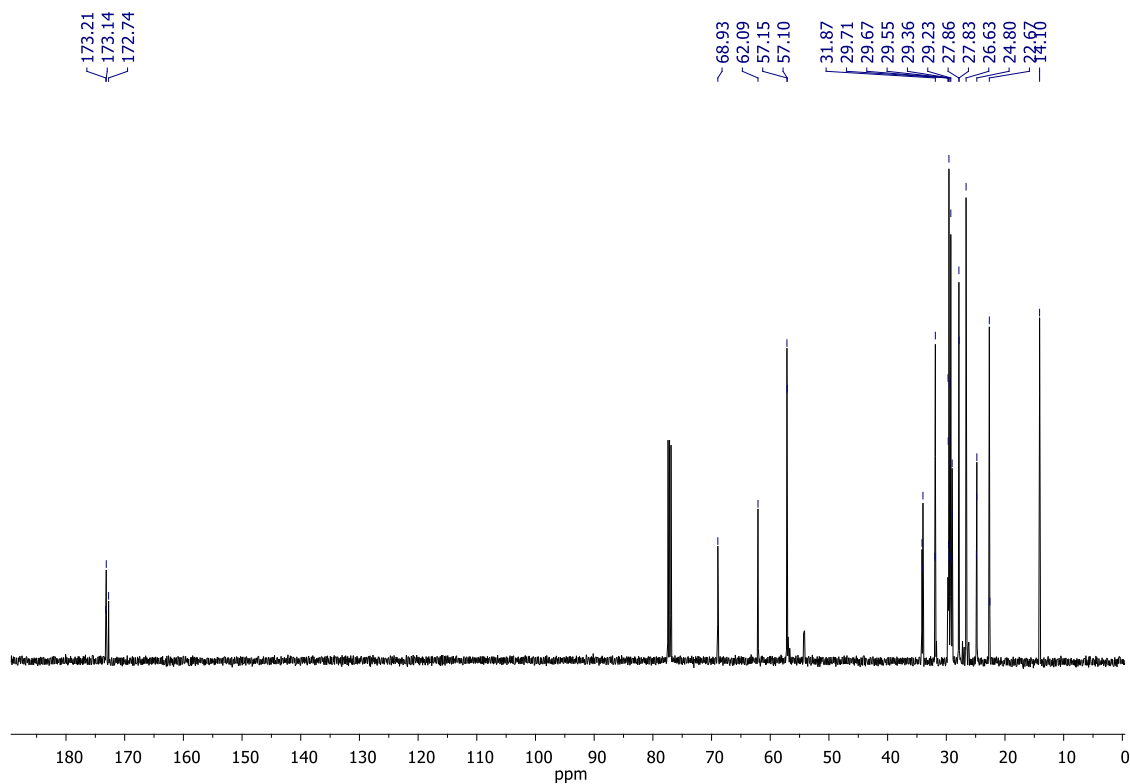
<sup>[a]</sup>Determined by GC-FID. <sup>[b]</sup>Ox. Number: Number of double bonds per gram of triglyceride unit. Ox. Number =  $(\sum \% \text{ fatty acid} \cdot x)/100$ ; x = total number of double bonds per triglyceride unit.



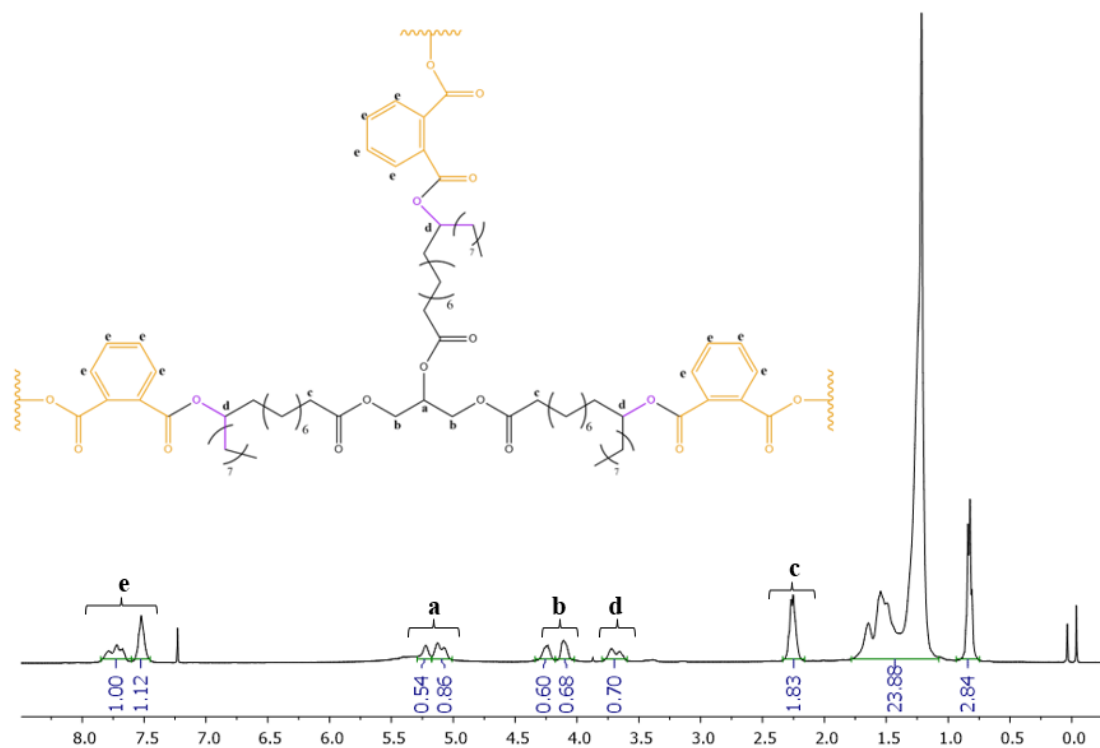
**Figure S2.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of a) waste cooking olive oil, WCOO; b) Epoxidized Olive Oil, EOO in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



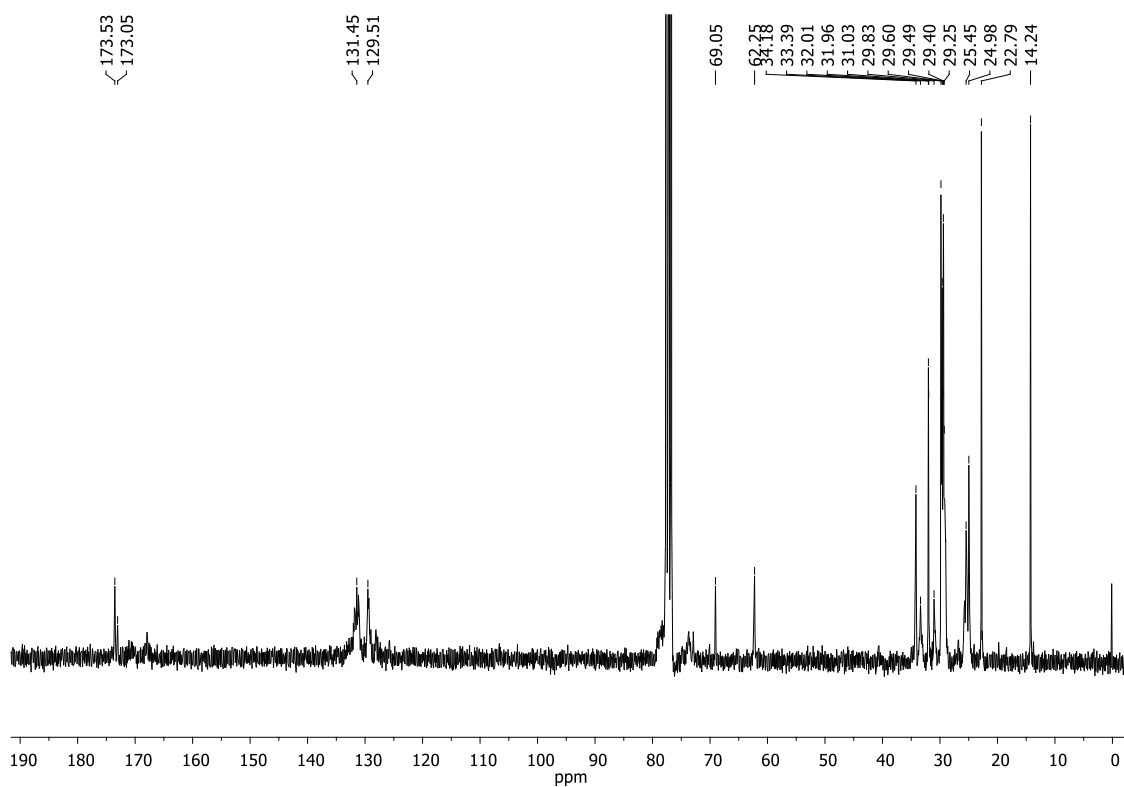
**Figure S3.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of EOO in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



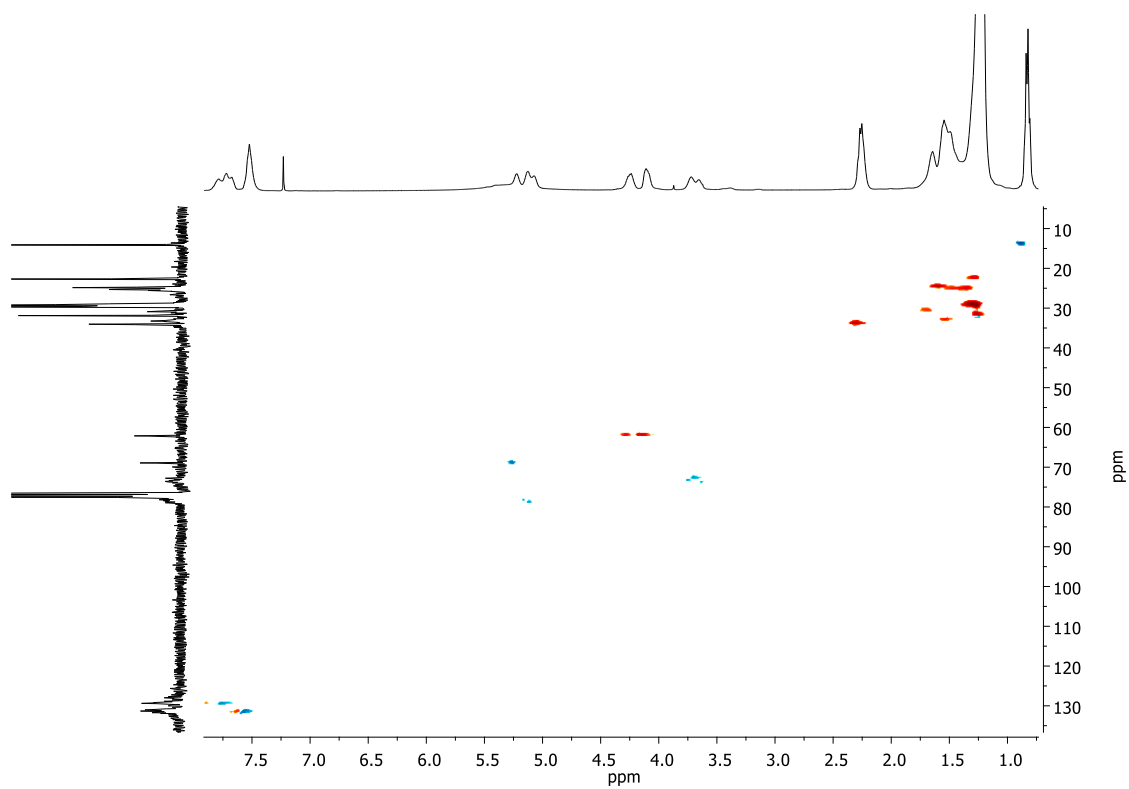
**Figure S4.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR spectrum of EOO in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



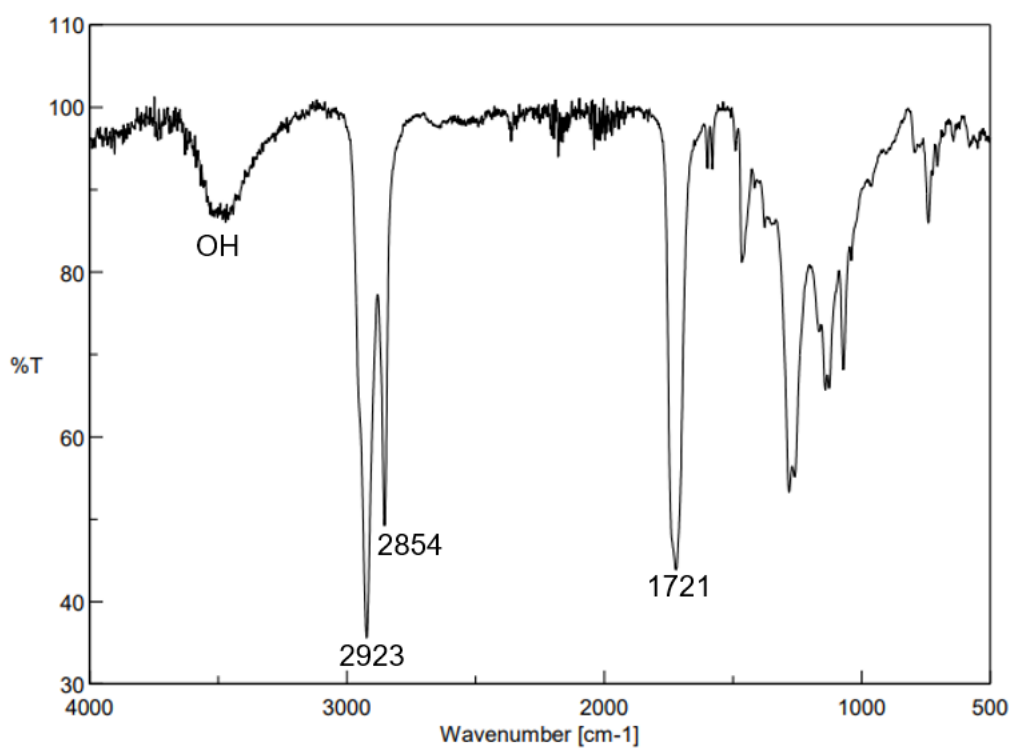
**Figure S5.**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of poly(EOO-co-PA) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



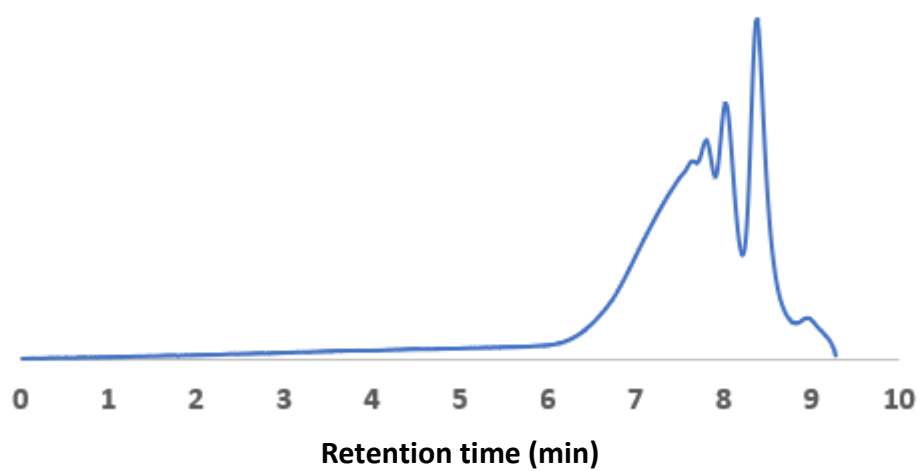
**Figure S6.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR spectrum of poly(EEO-*co*-PA) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



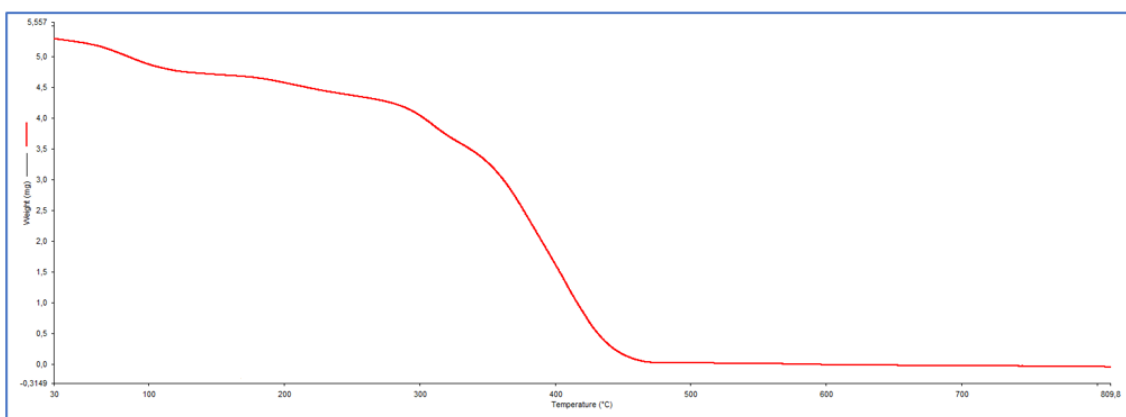
**Figure S7.** g-HSQC NMR spectrum of poly(EEO-*co*-PA) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



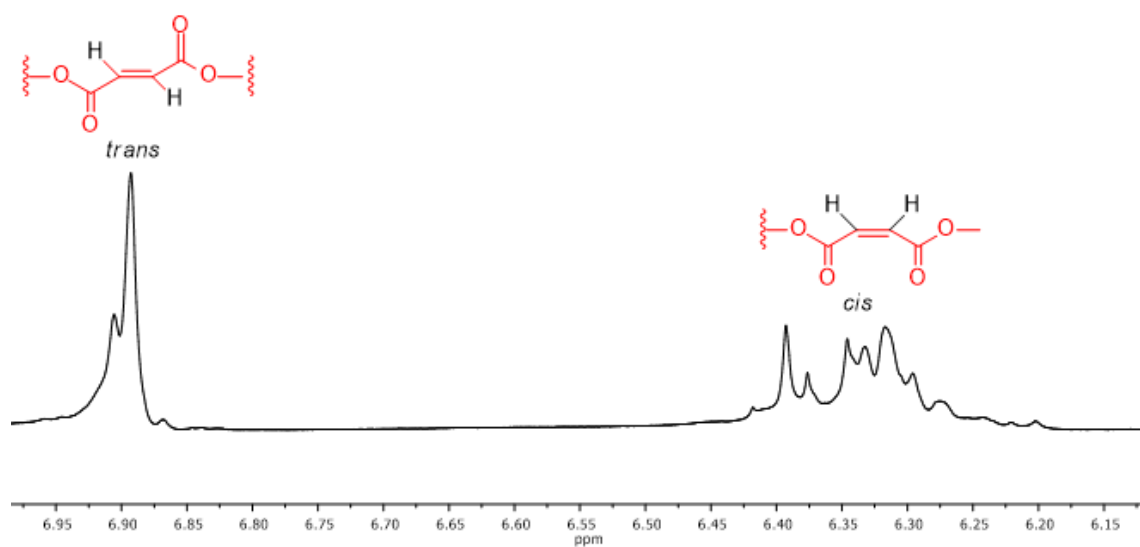
**Figure S8.** FT-IR spectrum of poly(EEO-co-PA) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Figure S9.** GPC trace of poly(EEO-co-PA).

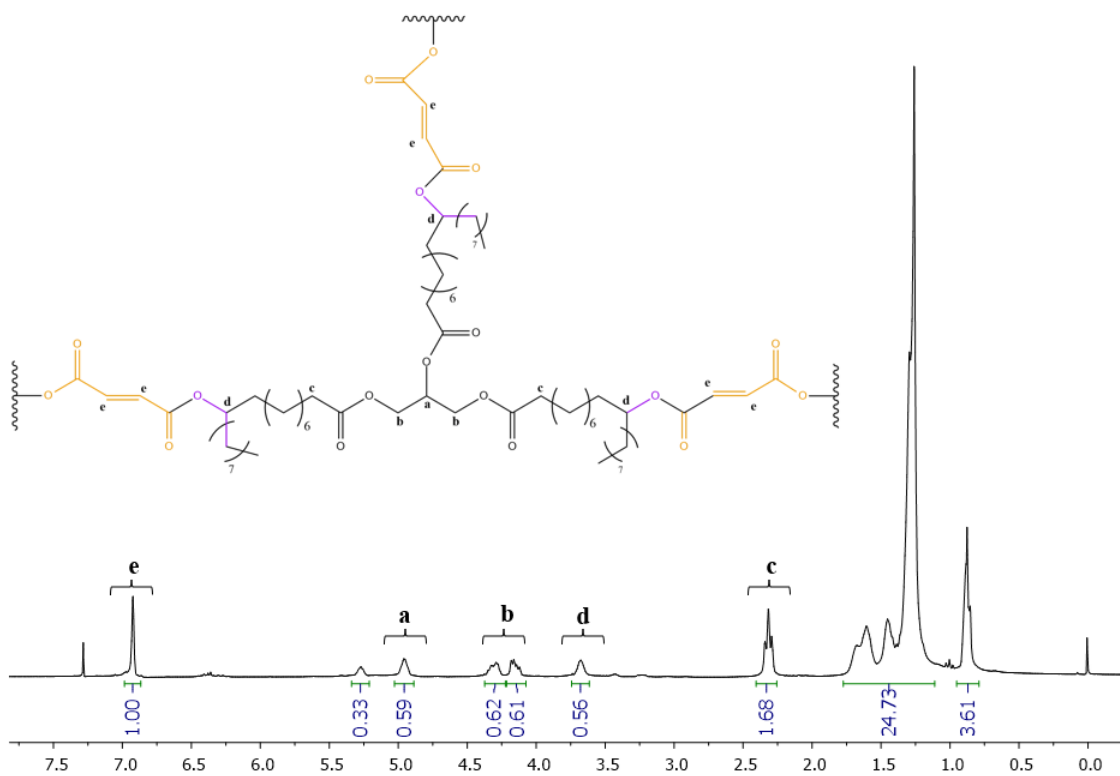


**Figure S10.** TGA analysis of poly(EEO-*co*-PA).

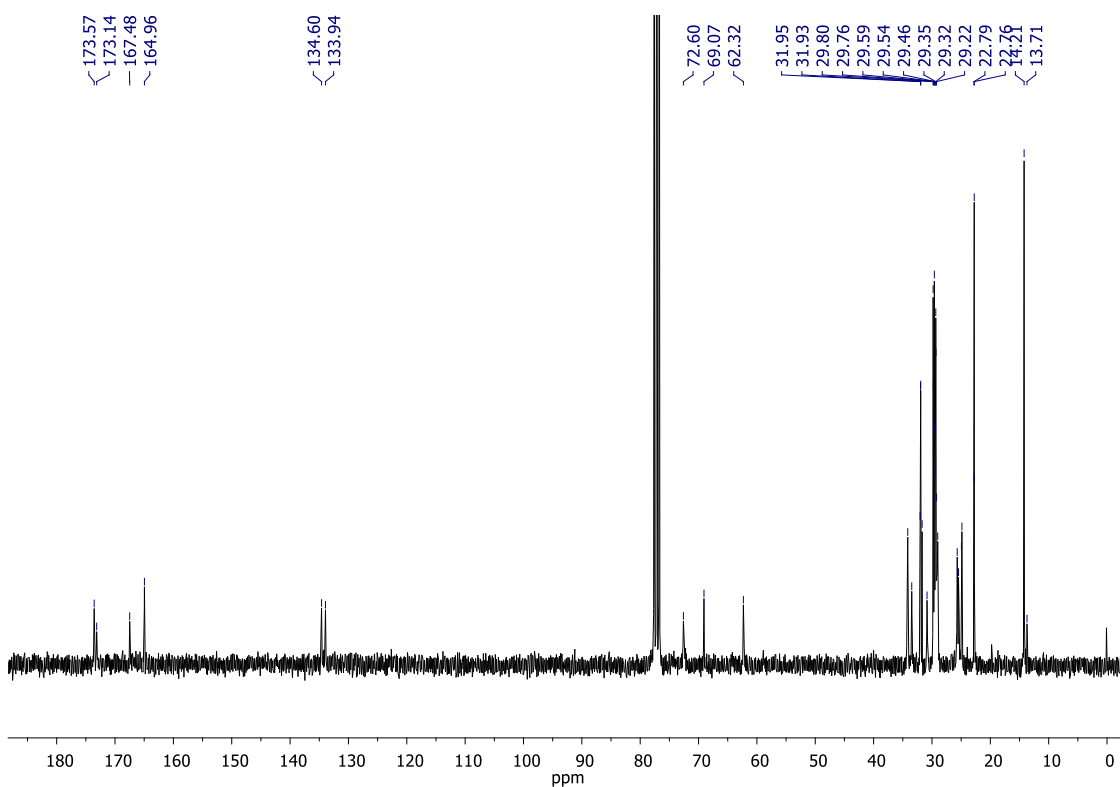


**Figure S11.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of mixture *cis/trans* poly(EEO-*co*-MA); Table 2, entry 1

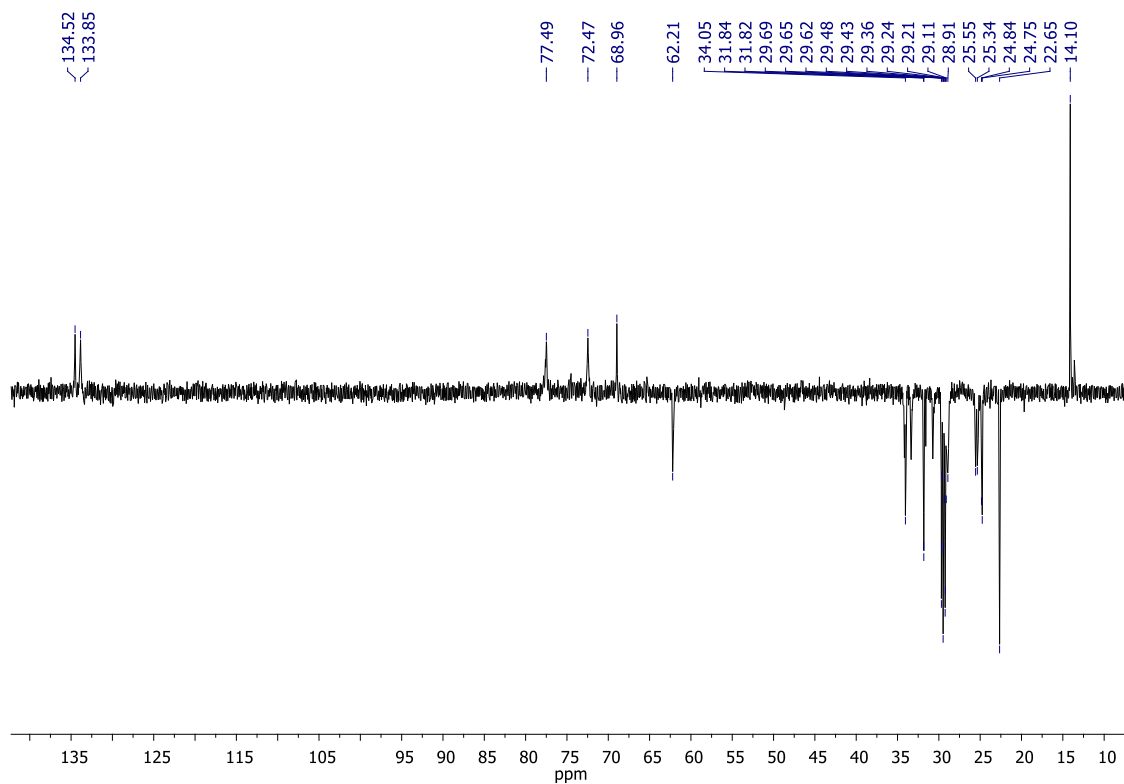




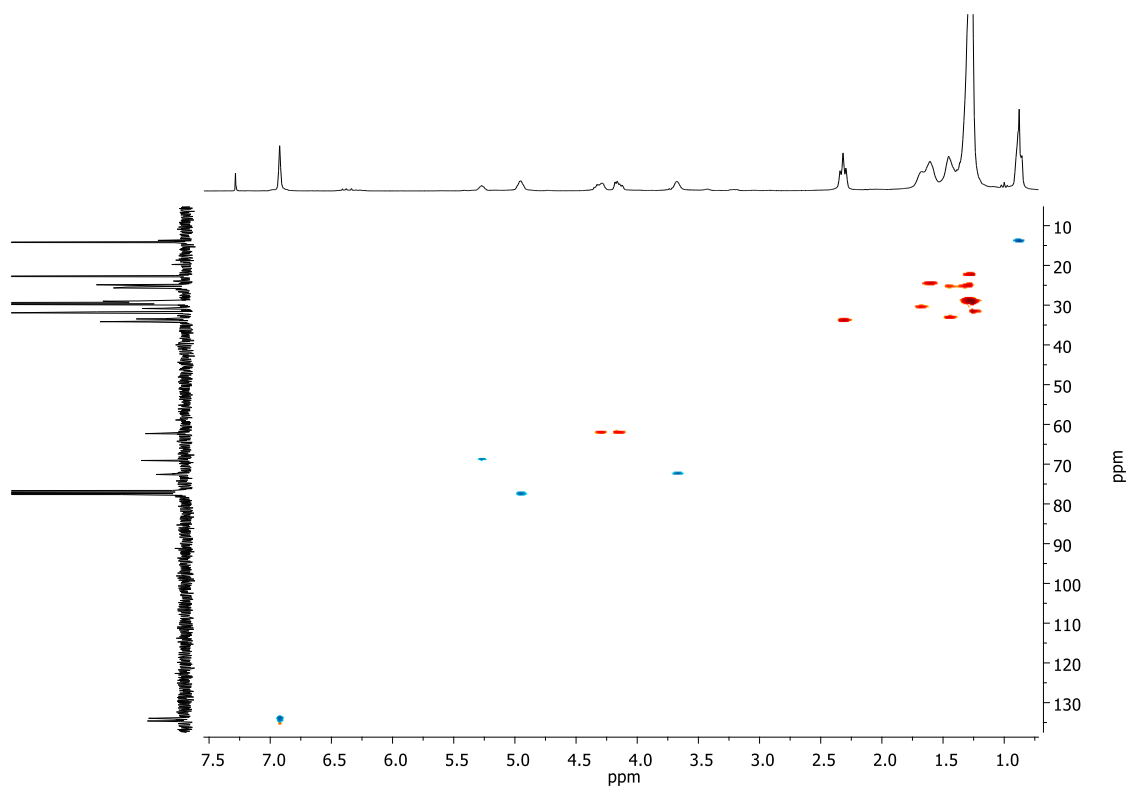
**Figure S12.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of *trans* poly(EOO-co-MA) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



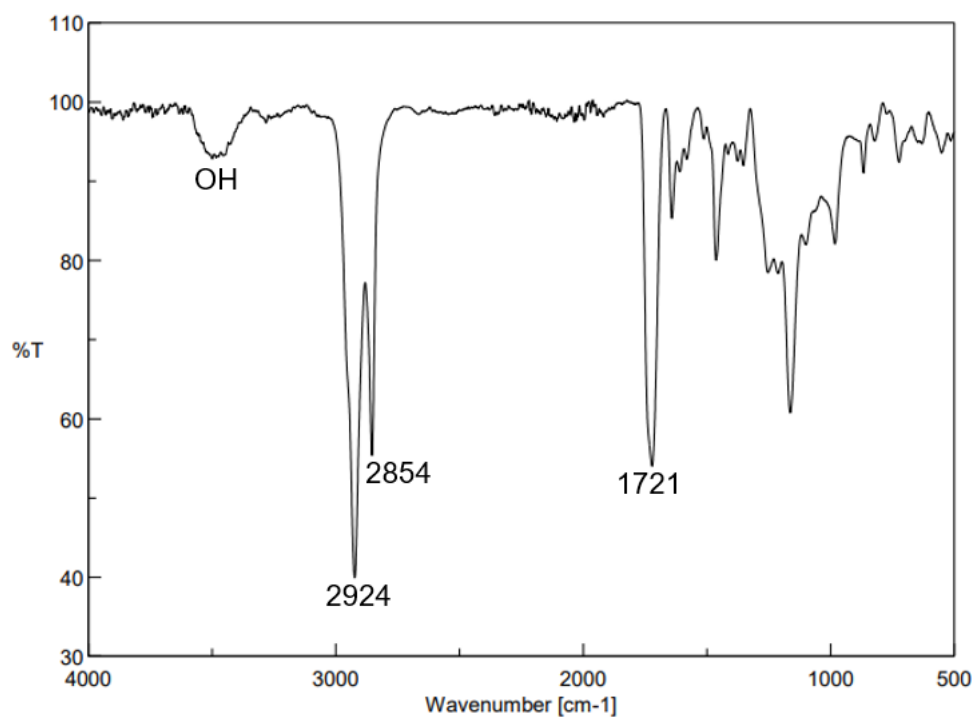
**Figure S13.** <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}-NMR spectrum of *trans* poly(EOO-co-MA) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



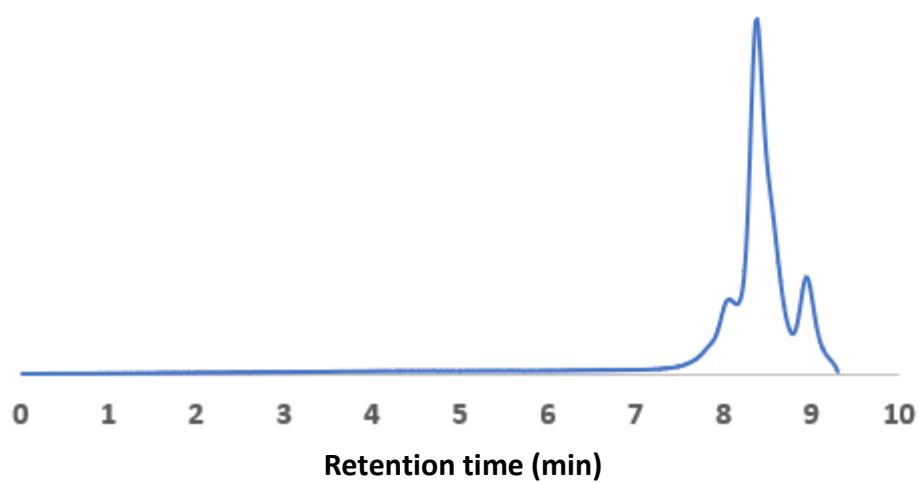
**Figure S14.** DEPT-NMR spectrum of *trans* poly(EOO-*co*-MA) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



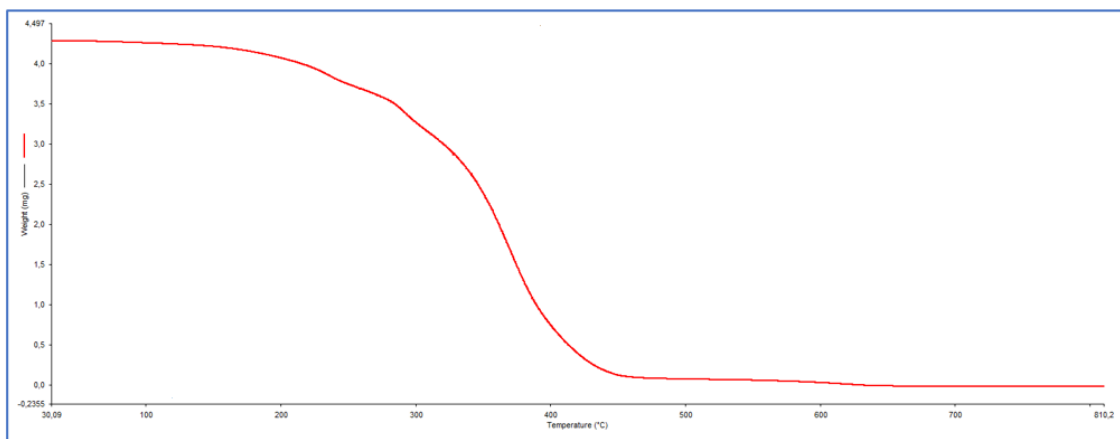
**Figure S15.** g-HSQC NMR spectrum of poly(EOO-*co*-SA) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



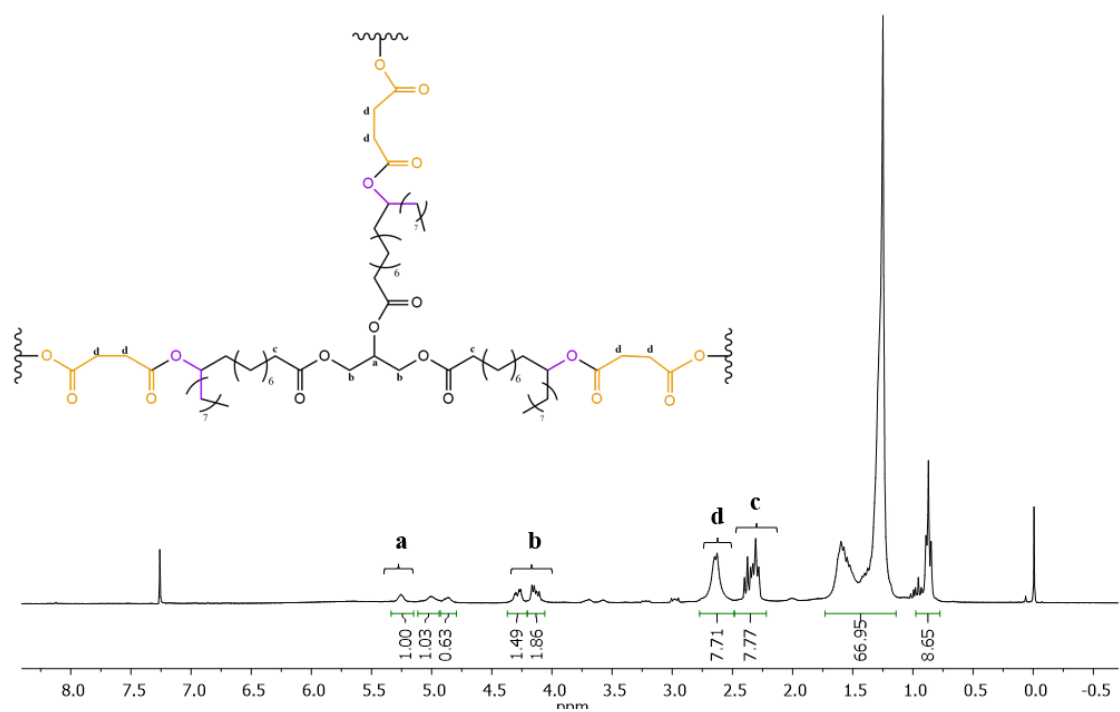
**Figure S16.** FT-IR spectrum of *trans* poly(EEO-*co*-MA) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



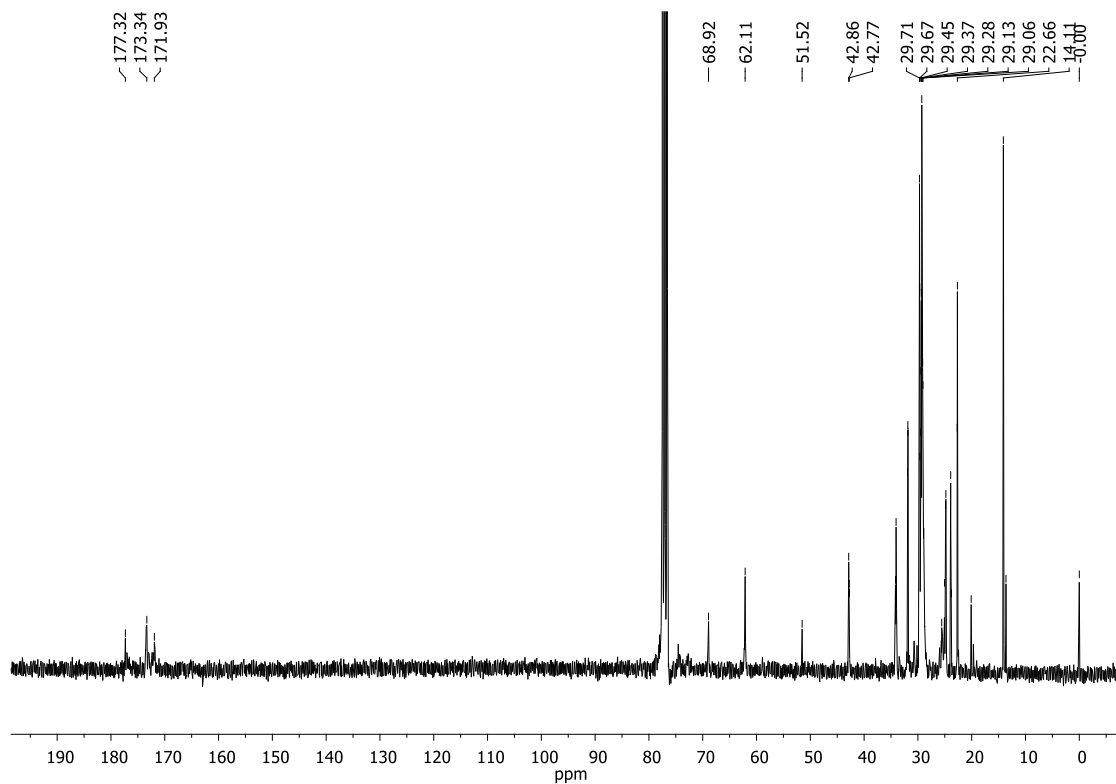
**Figure S17.** GPC trace of *trans* poly(EEO-*co*-MA).



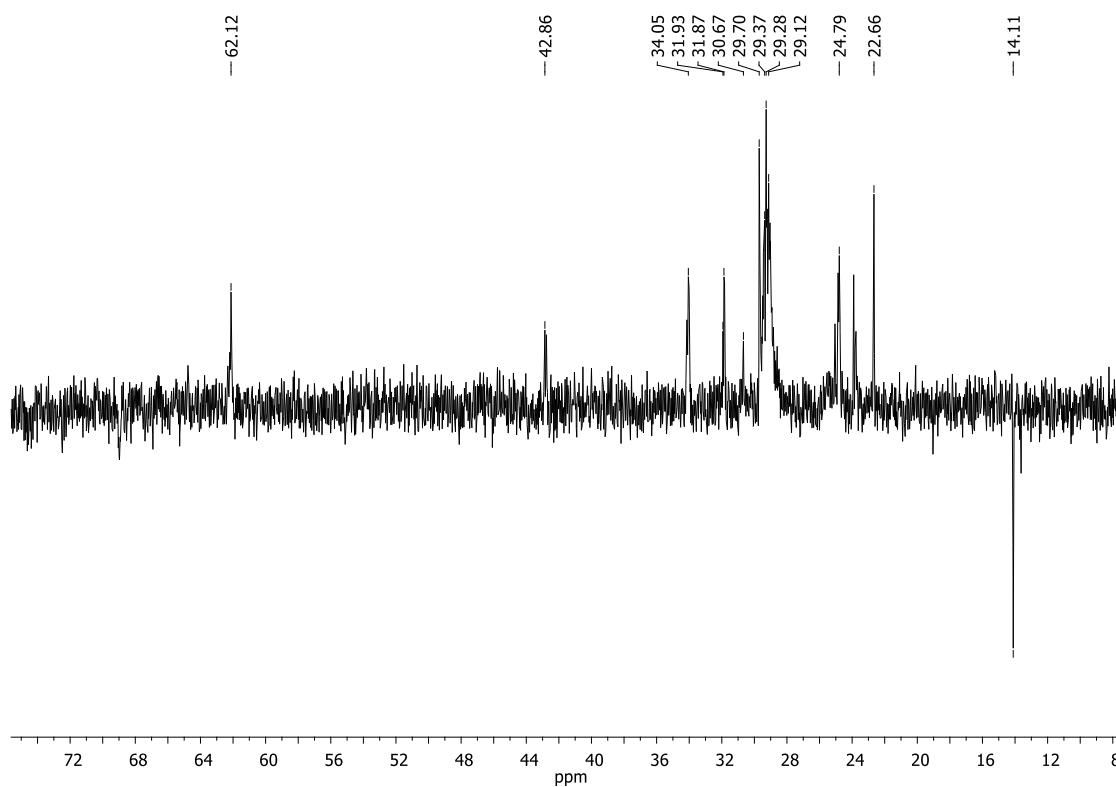
**Figure S18.** TGA analysis of *trans* poly(EOO-*co*-MA).



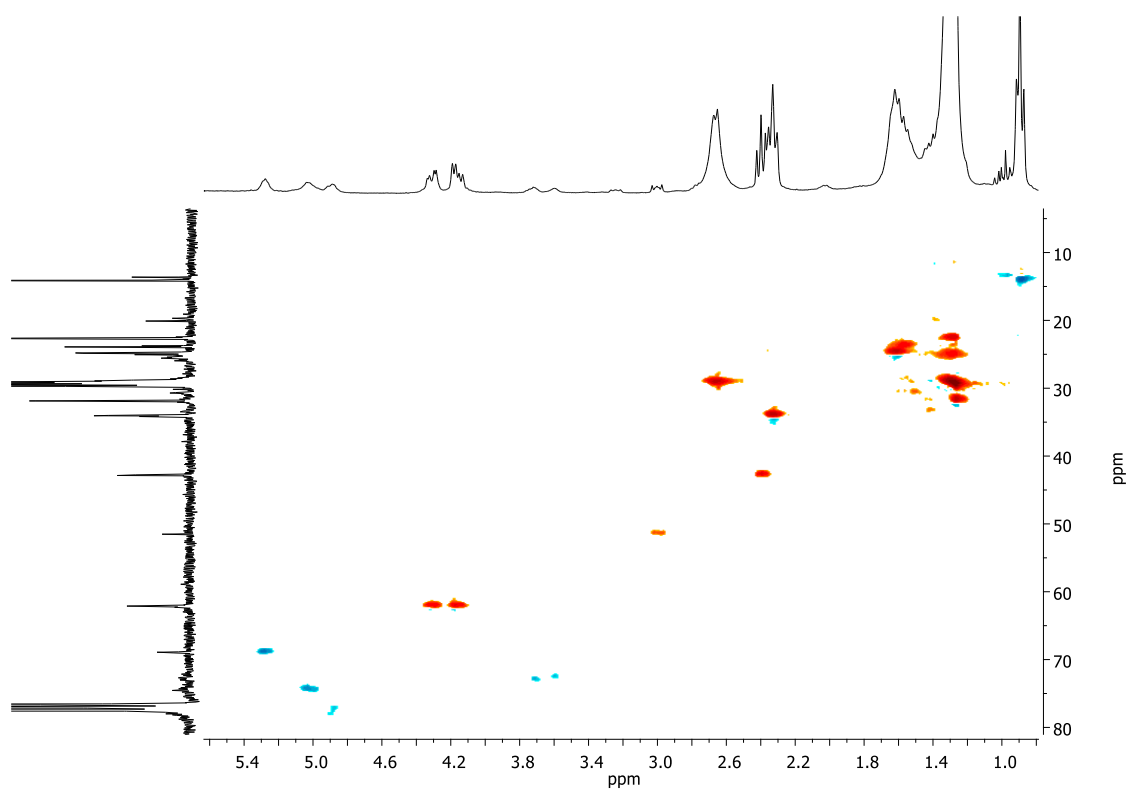
**Figure S19.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of poly(EOO-*co*-SA) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



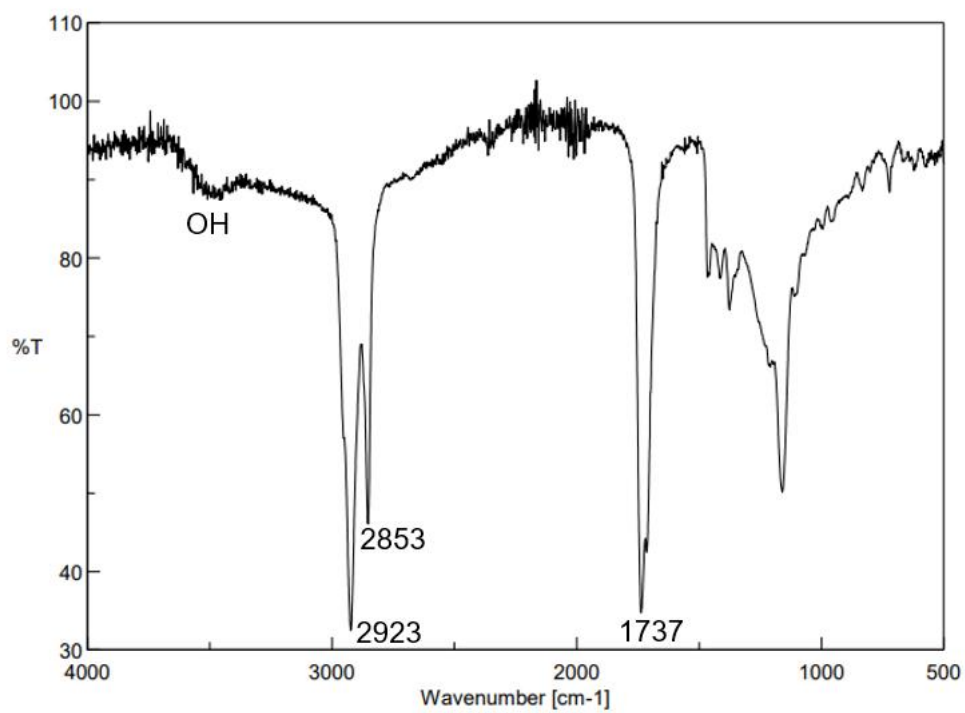
**Figure S20.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR spectrum of poly(EOO-*co*-SA) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



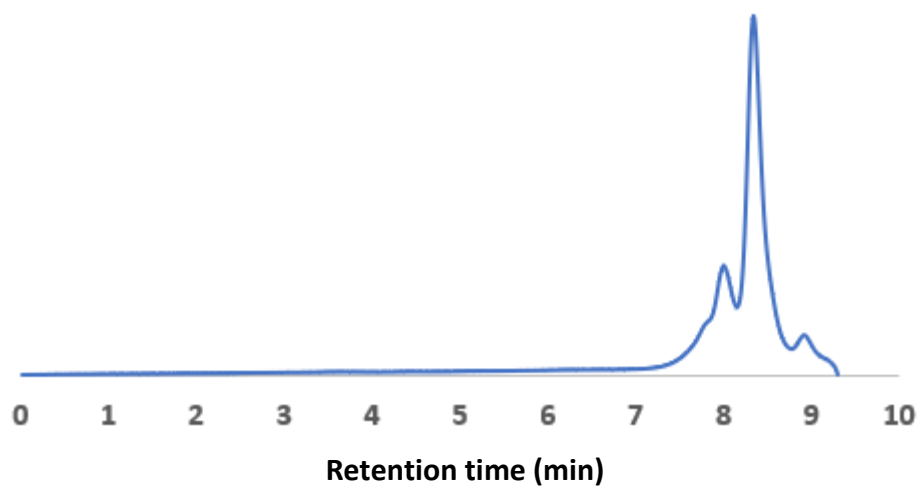
**Figure S21.** DEPT-NMR spectrum of poly(EOO-*co*-SA) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



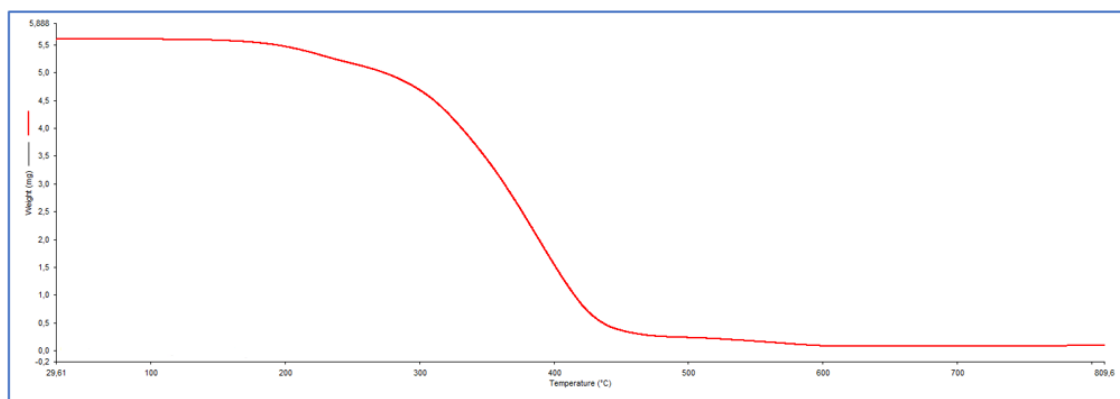
**Figure S22.** g-HSQC NMR spectrum of poly(EEO-*co*-SA) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



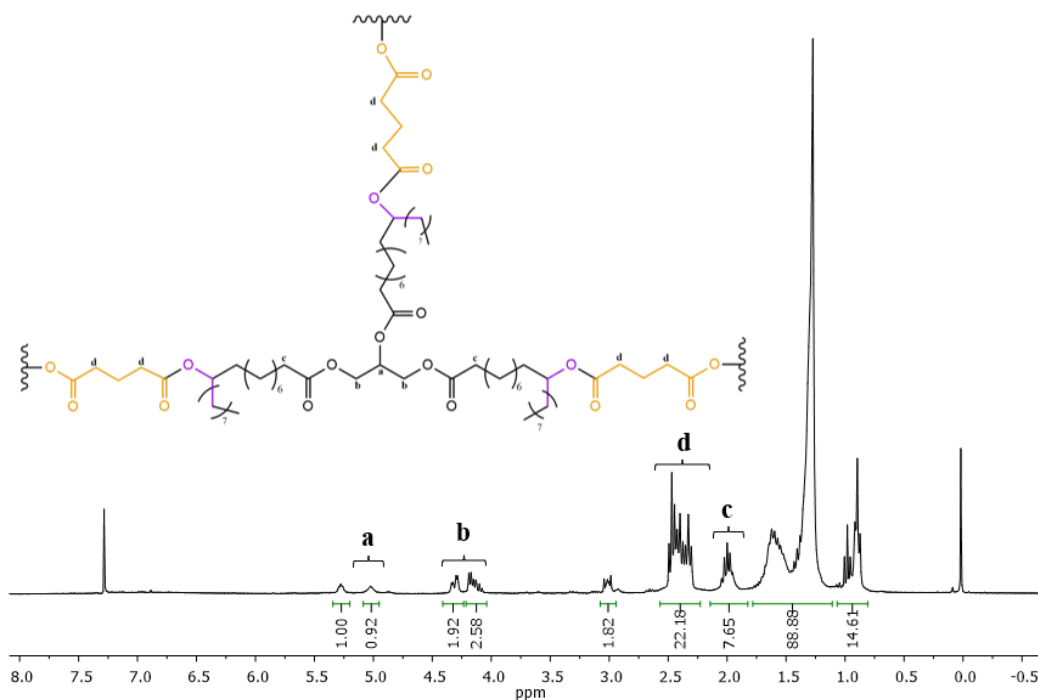
**Figure S23.** FT-IR spectrum of poly(EEO-*co*-SA) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



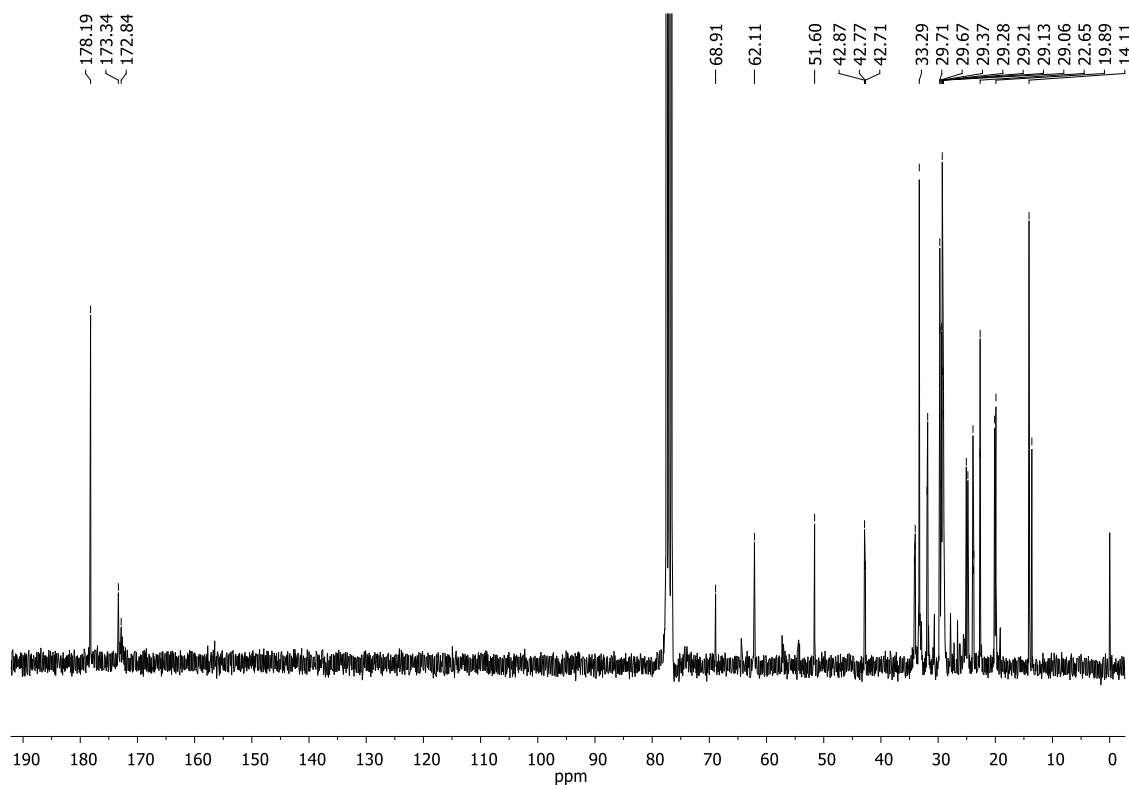
**Figure S24.** GPC trace of poly(EEO-*co*-SA).



**Figure S25.** TGA analysis of poly(EEO-*co*-SA).

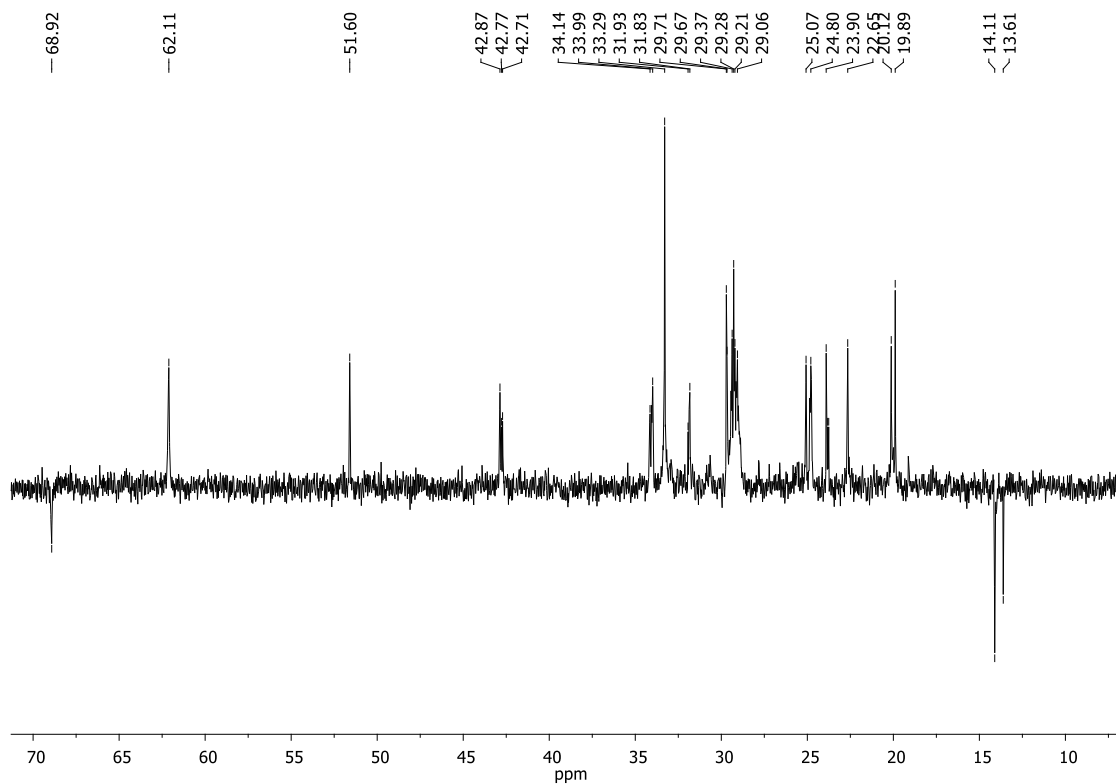


**Figure S26.**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of poly(EEO-*co*-GA) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

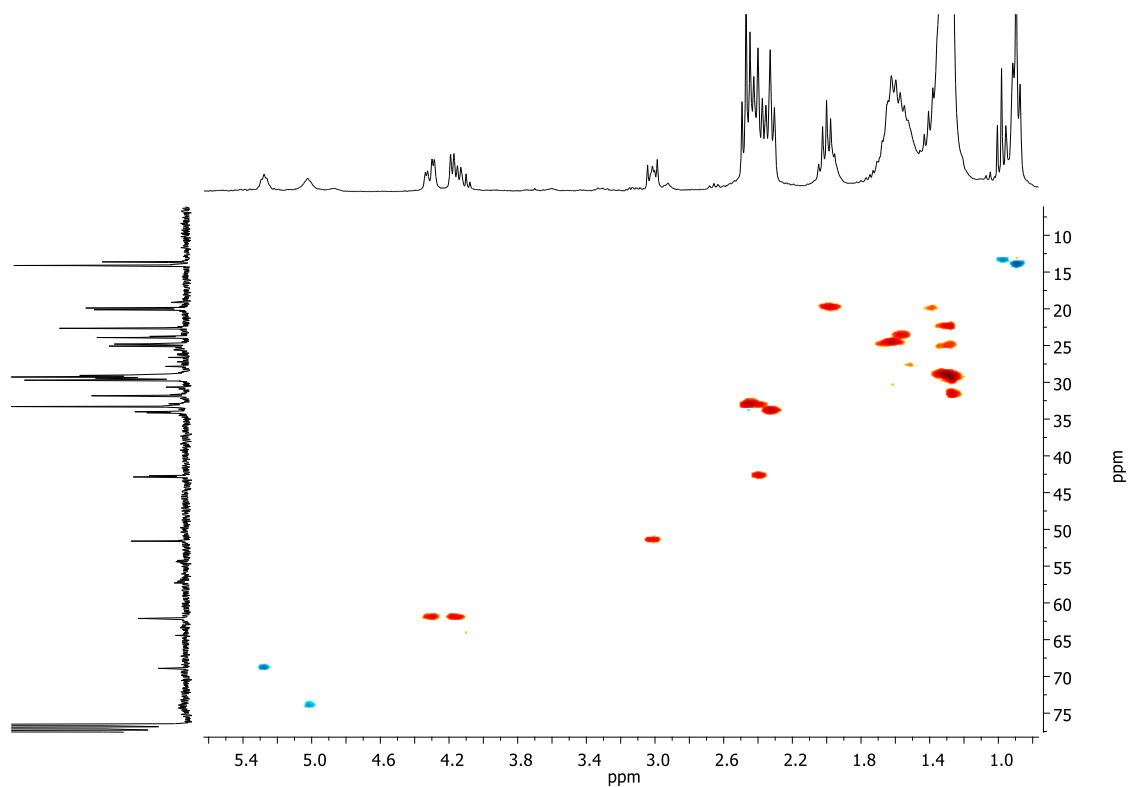


**Figure S27.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR spectrum of poly(EEO-*co*-GA) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

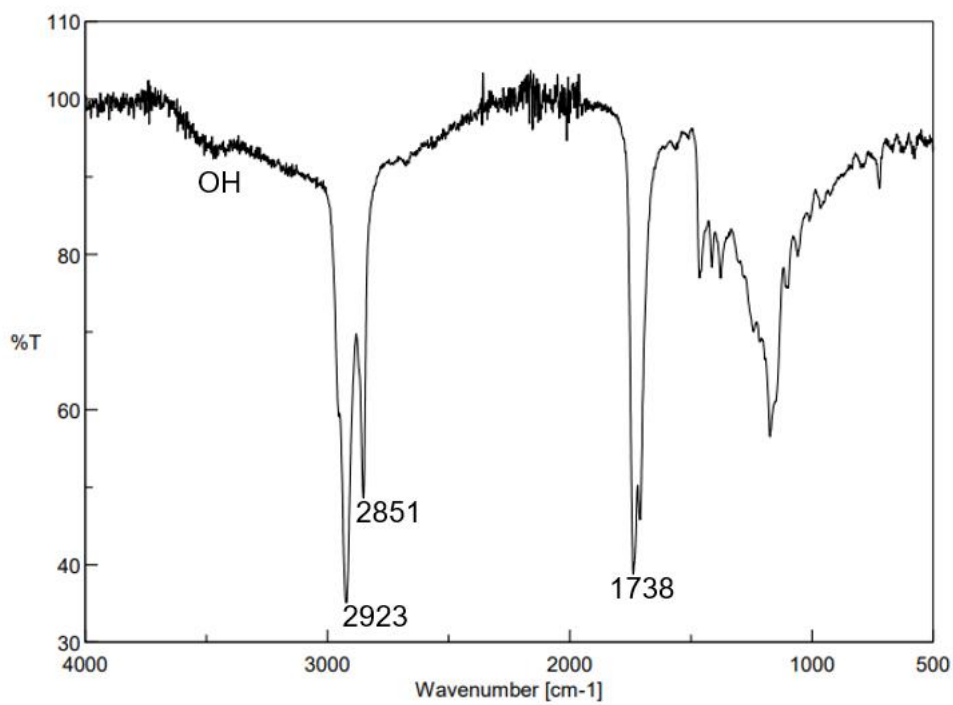




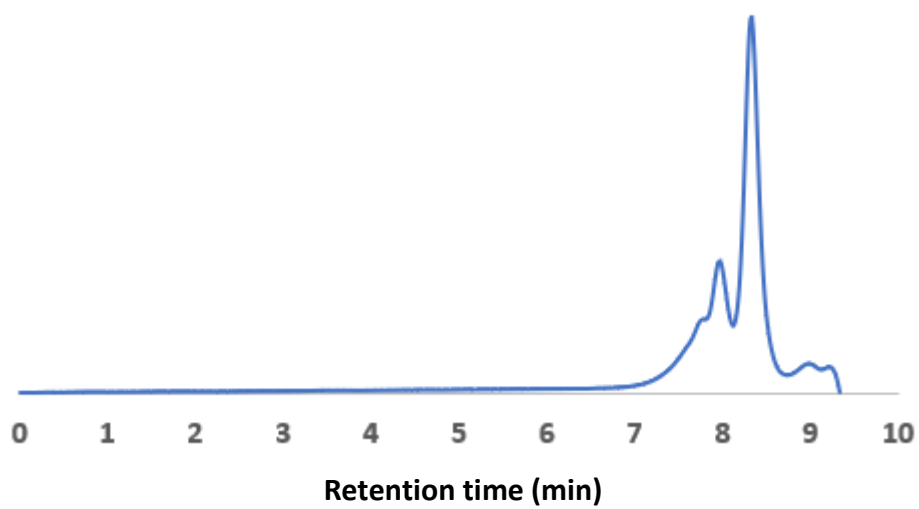
**Figure S28.** DEPT-NMR spectrum of poly(EOO-*co*-GA) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



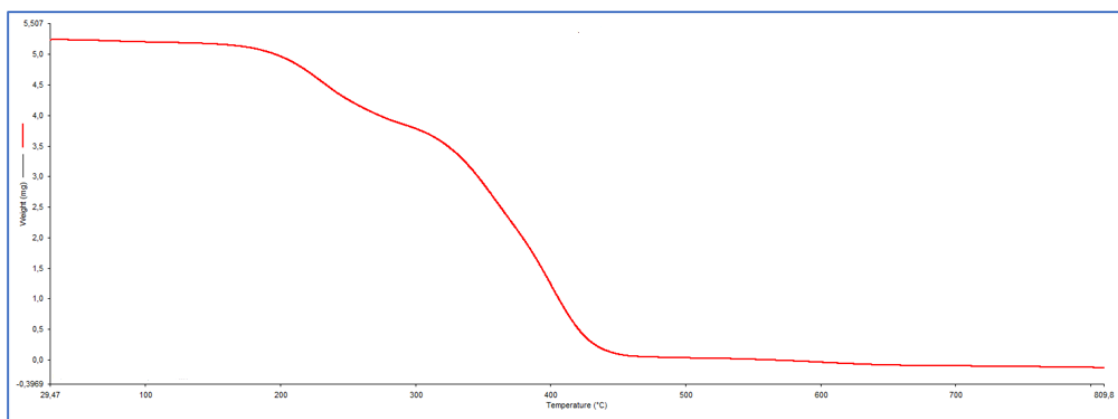
**Figure S29.** g-HSQC-NMR spectrum of poly(EOO-*co*-GA) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Figure S30.** FT-IR spectrum of poly(EOO-*co*-GA) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

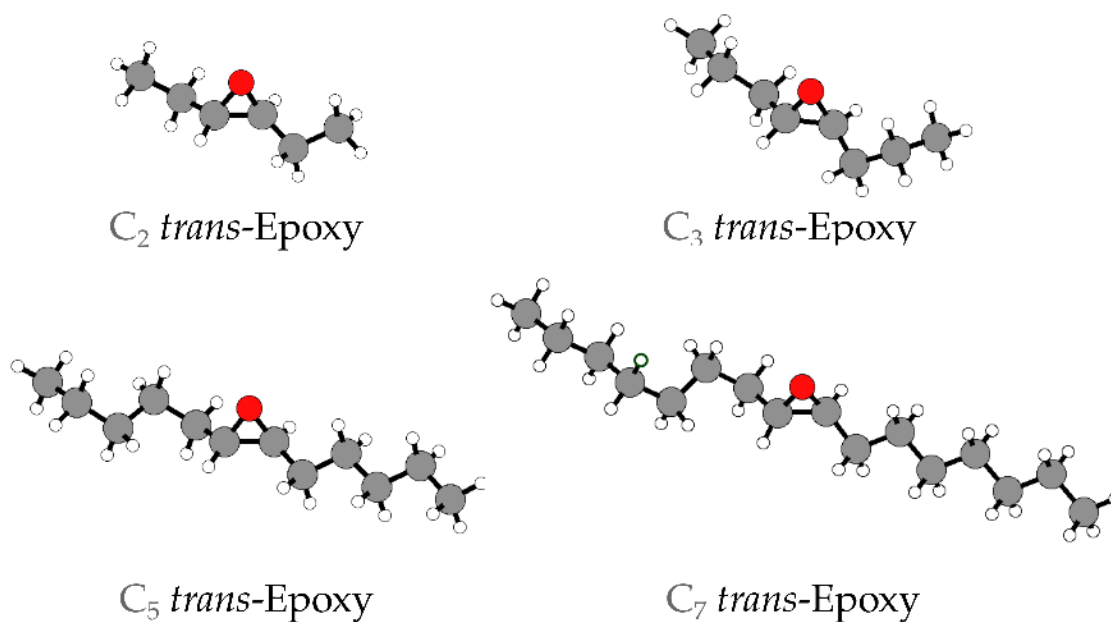


**Figure S31.** GPC trace of poly(EOO-*co*-GA).

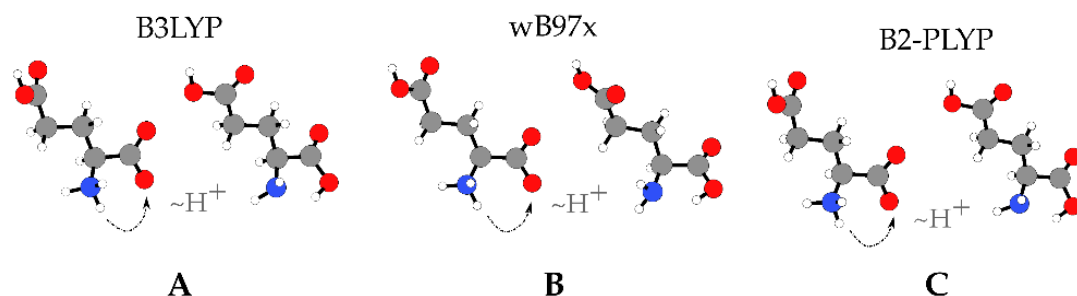


**Figure S32.** TGA analysis of poly(EEO-co-GA).

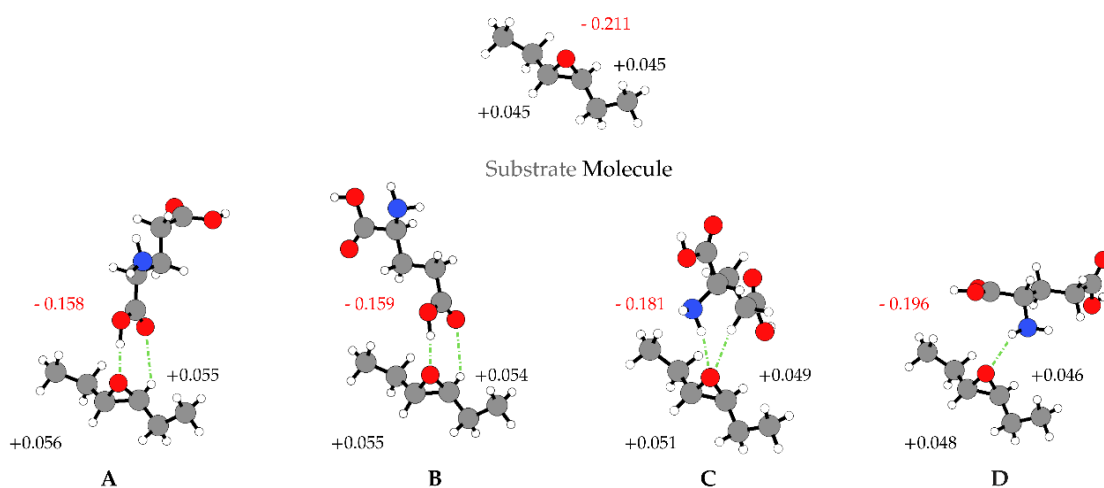
### Density functional theory (DFT) calculations



**Figure S33.** Final optimized geometries for a set of epoxide models containing different amounts of carbon units as side-chain. The optimization was carried out at B3LYP def2-TZVP level including the effect of the solvent (toluene) through the implicit solvent model.



**Figure S34.** Initial and final structures of L-Glu molecule optimized with different DFT xc-functionals. All these optimizations predict a H transfer event from the ammonium to the carboxylate group. These simulations were performed considering toluene as solvent and including dispersion correction through D4 Grimme model.



**Figure S35.** Optimized geometries for a set of molecular complexes identified when a single epoxide interacts with different linking point available on L-Glu molecule in vacuum.

**Table S2.** *Trans-cis* relative energies obtained for a set of epoxides with different side-chain sizes computed at DFT and SCS-MP2 level of theory. The obtained energies are reported in kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>.

Side-chain size	B3LYP def2-TZVP	SCS-MP2 cc-pVTZ
2	- 1.49	- 1.42
3	- 1.58	- 1.47
5	- 0.64	- 0.77
7	- 0.68	- 0.89

**Table S3.** Hirshfeld atomic charge analysis for a set of epoxide model with different side-chain size computed at B3LYP def2-TZVP level in vacuum.

<b>Side-chain size</b>	<b>Oxygen atom</b>	<b>Carbon 1 atom</b>	<b>Carbon 2 atom</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>- 0.211</b>	<b>+ 0.045</b>	<b>+ 0.045</b>
3	- 0.211	+ 0.044	+ 0.045
5	-0.211	+ 0.044	+ 0.045
7	- 0.211	+ 0.044	+ 0.045

**Table S4.** Relative energies obtained for a set of molecular complexes identified at DFT level and recalculated at SCS-MP2 level in vacuum. The obtained energies are reported in kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>.

<b>Relative energy respect to Structure A</b>	<b>B3LYP def2-TZVP</b>	<b>SCS-MP2 cc-pVTZ</b>
D vs A	7.38	6.15
C vs A	4.78	3.77
B vs A	0.55	0.41
A vs A	0.00	0.00