

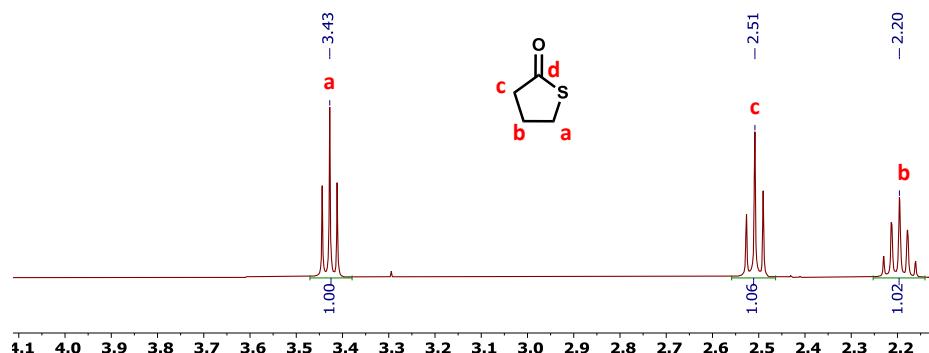
## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### **$\gamma$ -Thiobutyrolactone - Ethylene Carbonate Decarboxylative Copolymerization, an Original Pathway to Prepare Aliphatic Oxidizable Poly( $\gamma$ -thioether ester)**

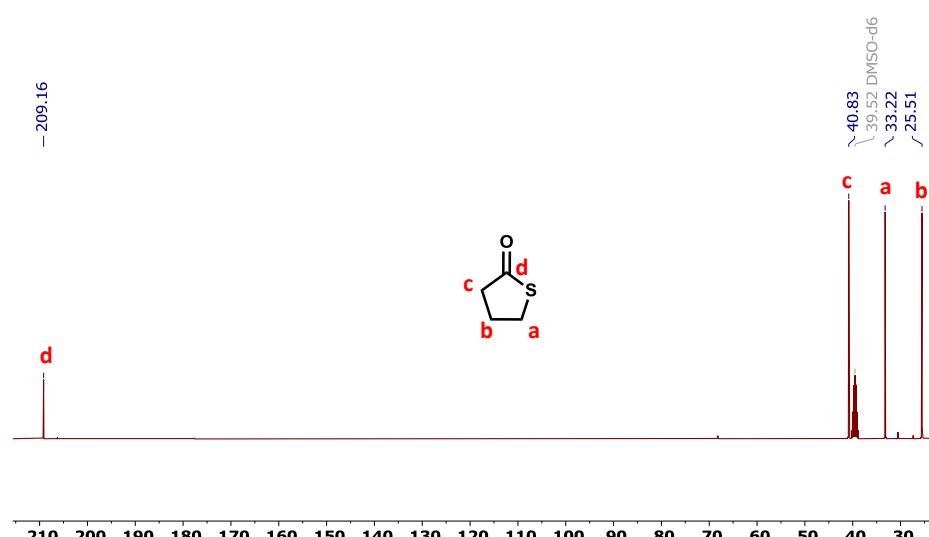
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<sup>a</sup> Sorbonne Université, CNRS, Institut Parisien de Chimie Moléculaire, Equipe Chimie des Polymères, 4 place Jussieu F-75005 Paris, France

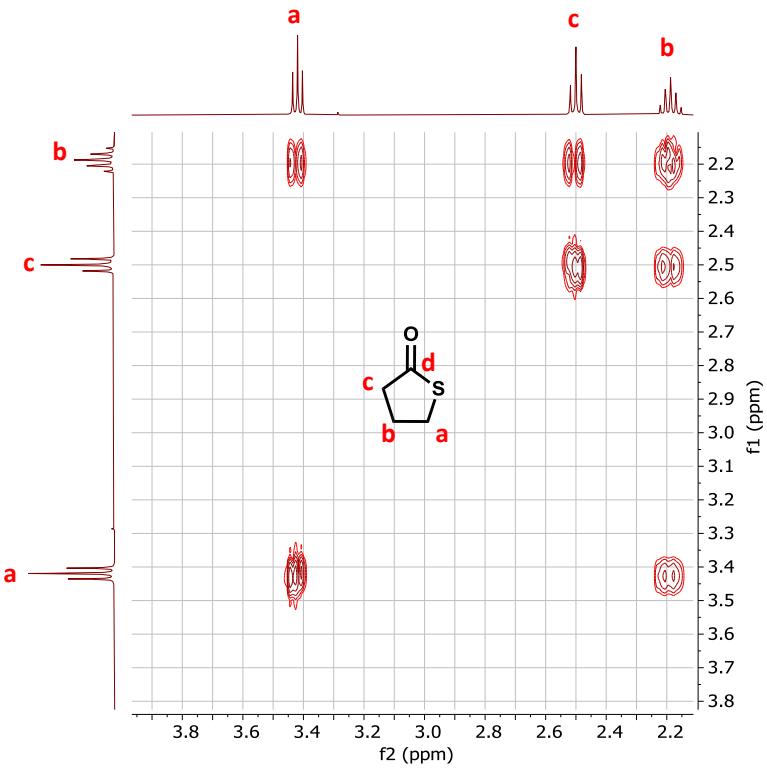
#### **$\gamma$ -thiobutyrolactone**



**Figure S 1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of TBL in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  at room temperature

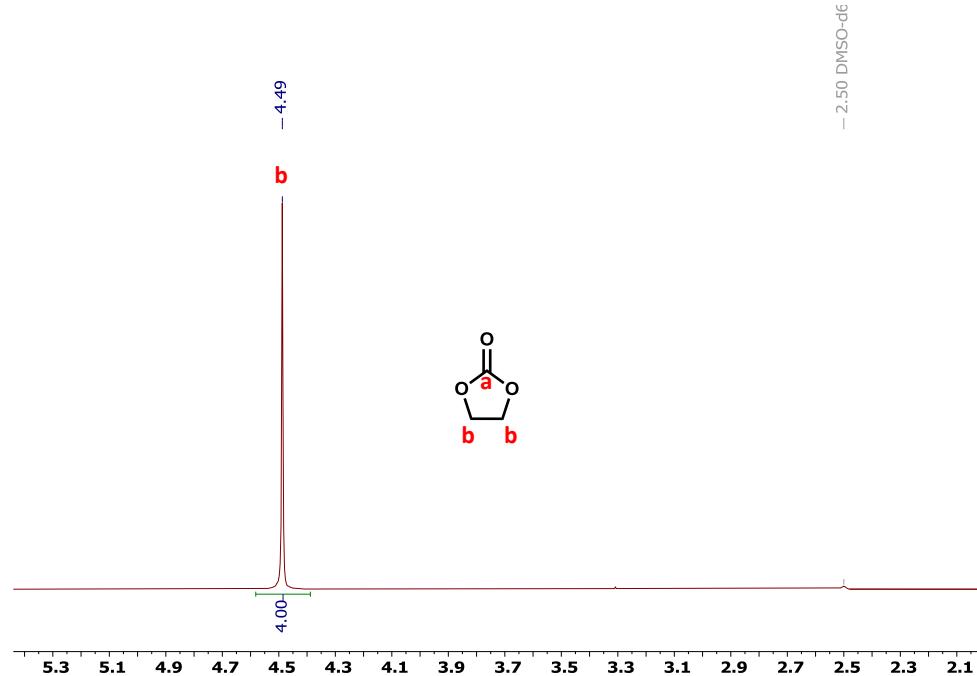


**Figure S 2.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of TBL in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  at room temperature

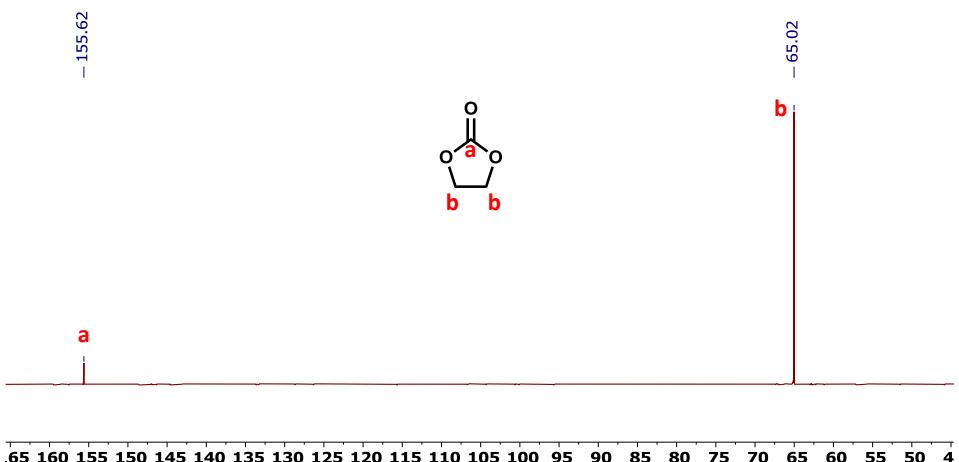


**Figure S 3.** COSY NMR spectrum of TBL in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  at room temperature

### Ethylene carbonate

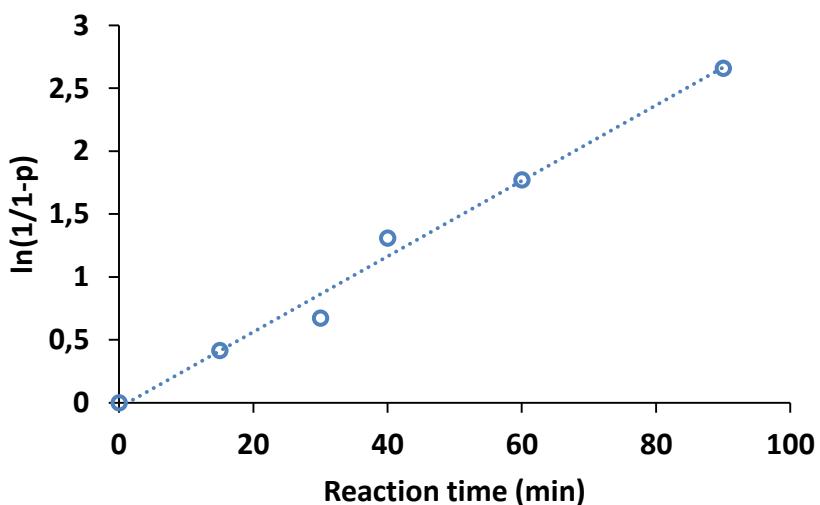


**Figure S 4.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of ethylene carbonate in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  at room temperature.

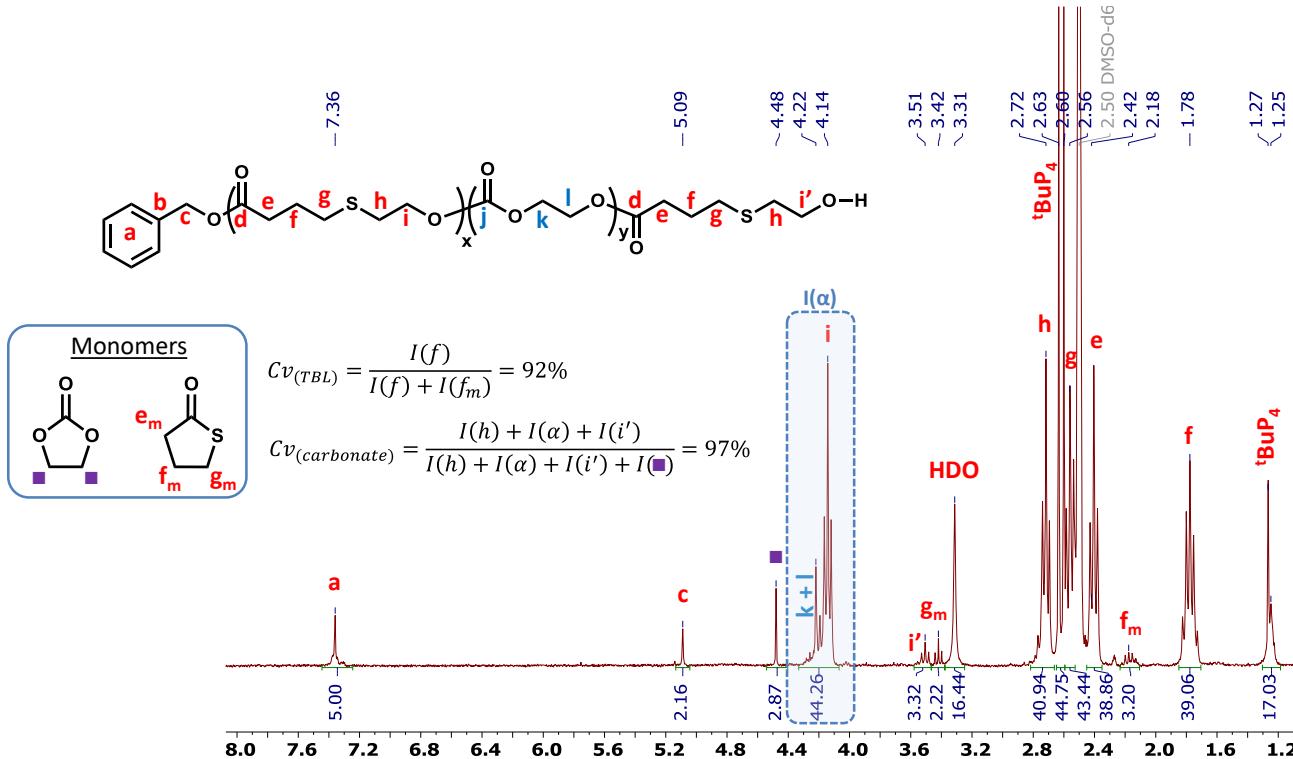


**Figure S 5.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of ethylene carbonate in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  at room temperature

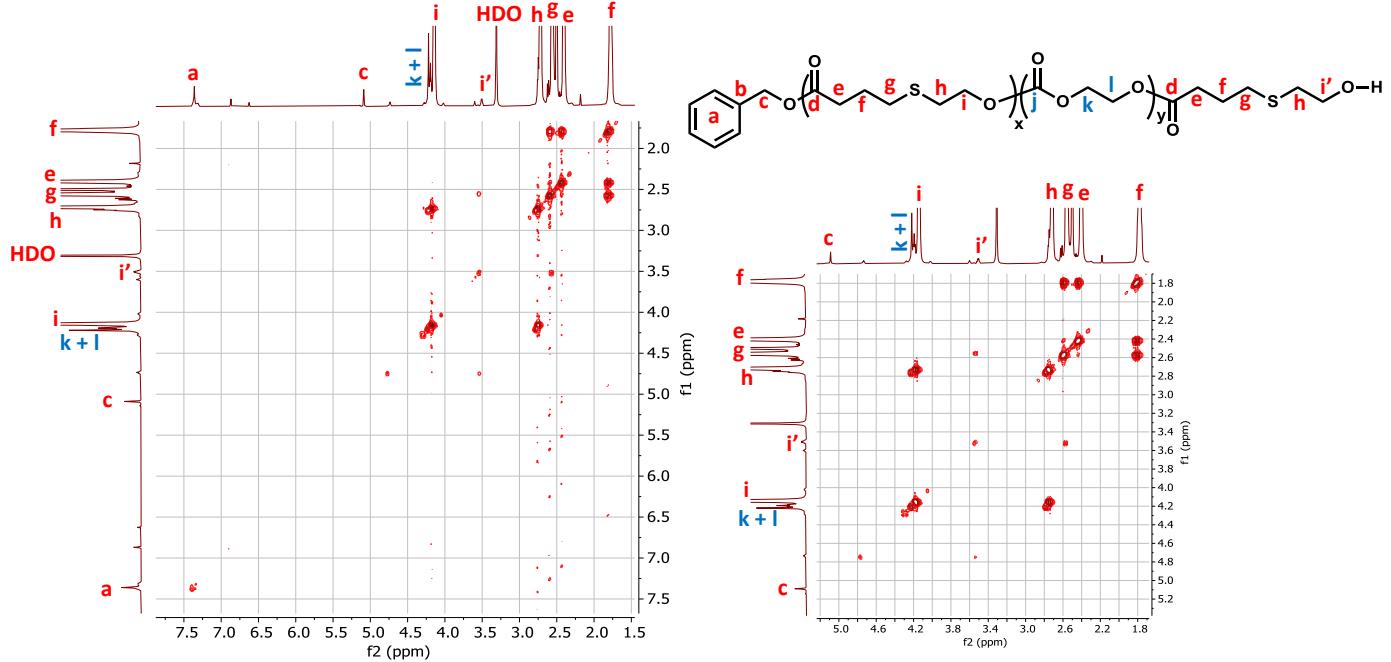
### Poly(thioether-*alt*-ester)



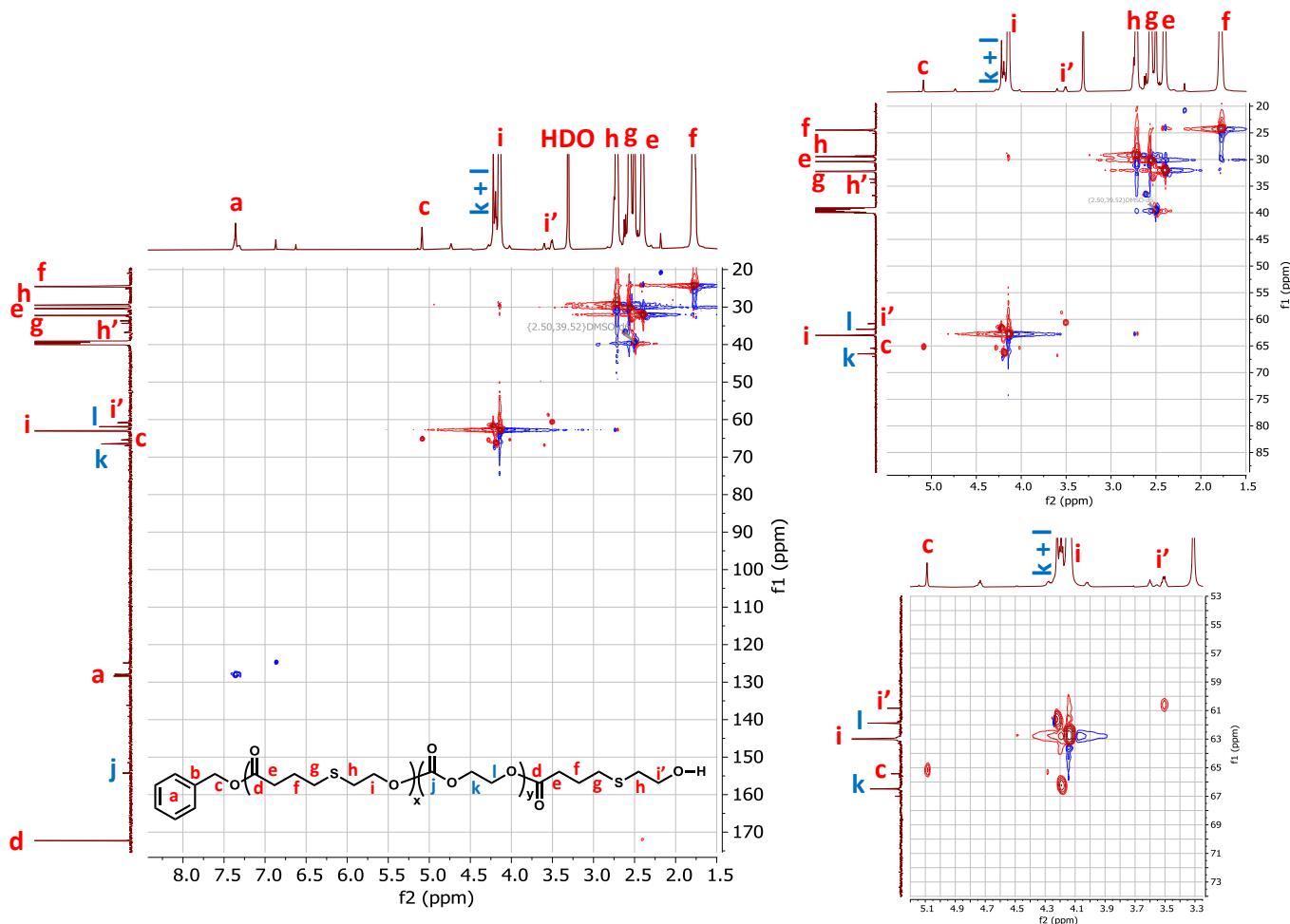
**Figure S 6.** Kinetic study of the synthesis of PTE using benzyl alcohol and *t*BuP4 as initiating system in bulk at 100°C (Table 1, run 7):  $\ln(1/(1-p)) = f(t)$



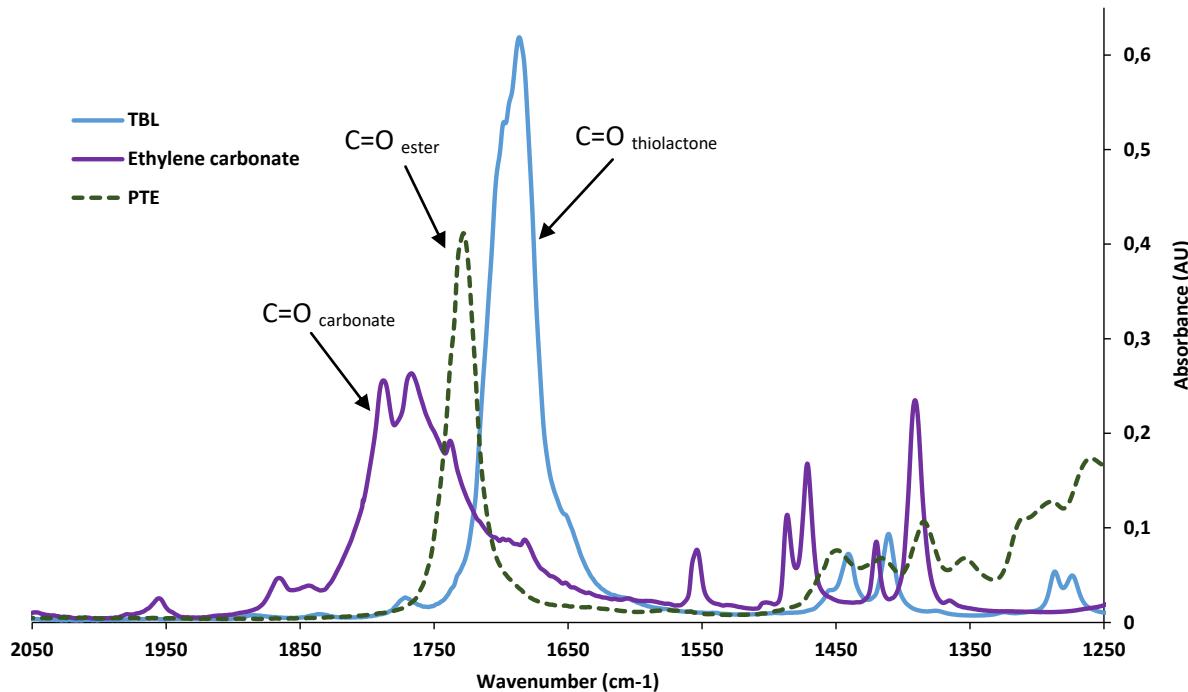
**Figure S 7.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the reaction medium of the alternating copolymerization of TBL and ethylene carbonate initiated by benzyl alcohol -  $^1\text{BuP}_4$  in bulk at 100°C after 3 h (Table 1, run 8)



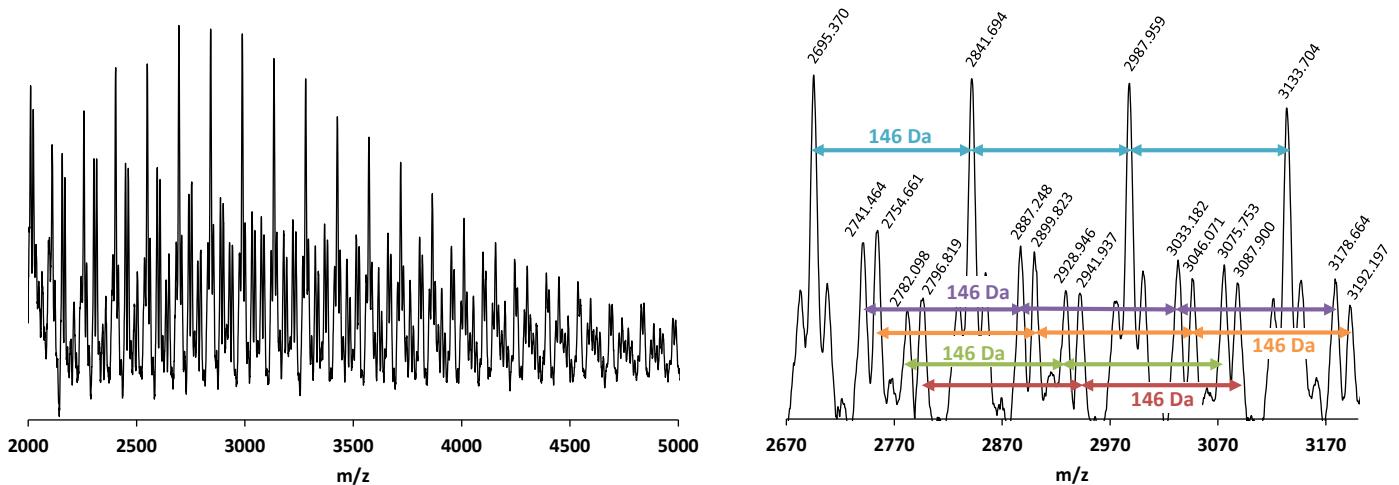
**Figure S 8.** COSY NMR spectrum of PTE in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  at room temperature (Table 1, run 8)



**Figure S 9.**  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HSQC NMR spectrum of PTE in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  at room temperature (Table 1, run 8)

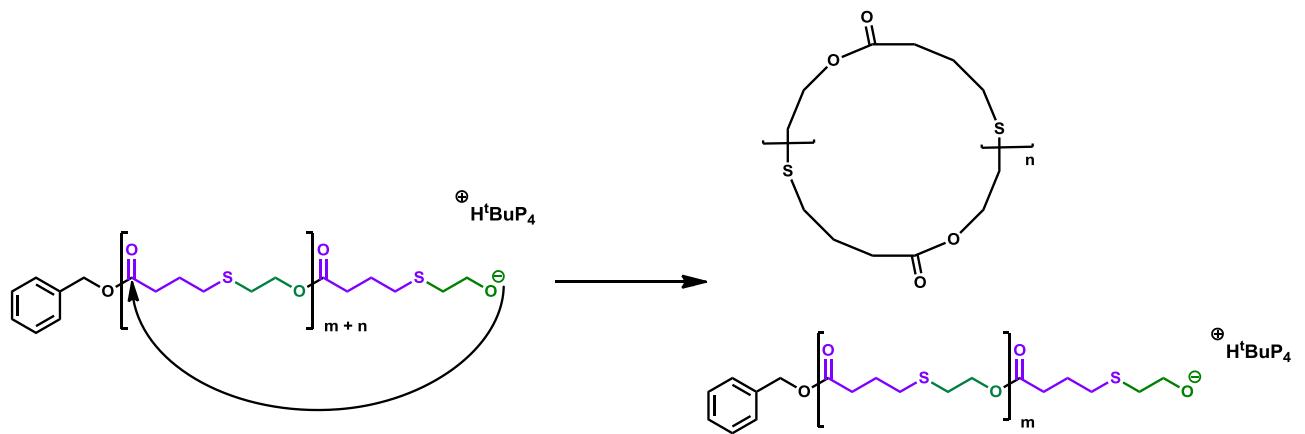


**Figure S 10.** ATR FT-IR analysis of TBL (blue curve), ethylene carbonate (purple curve) and PTE (green curve - Table 1, run 14)



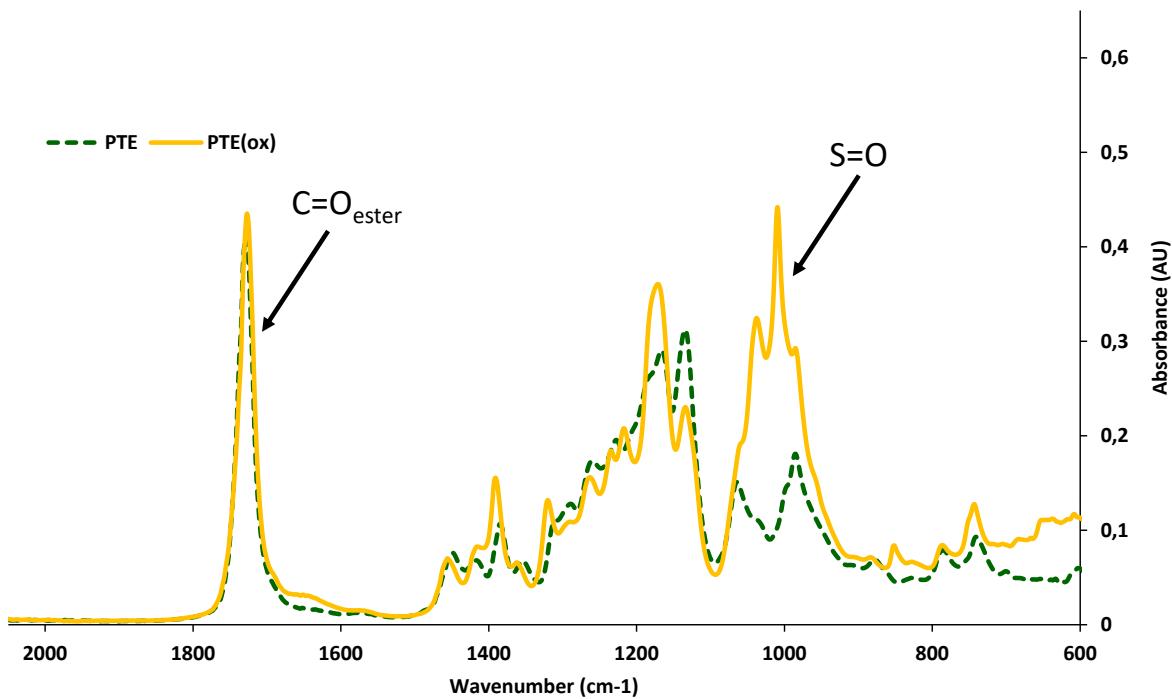
Structure	Cation	$X_n$	Calculated exact mass	MALDI-ToF $m/z$
	$\text{Na}^+$	17	2695.90	2695.37
	$\text{Na}^+$	18	2753.60	2754.66
	$\text{Na}^+$	19	2943.79	2941.94

**Figure S 11.** MALDI-ToF mass spectrum (linear mode) of a PTE synthesized using benzyl alcohol -  $^1\text{BuP}_4$  as initiating system in bulk at 100°C (Table 1, run 8)



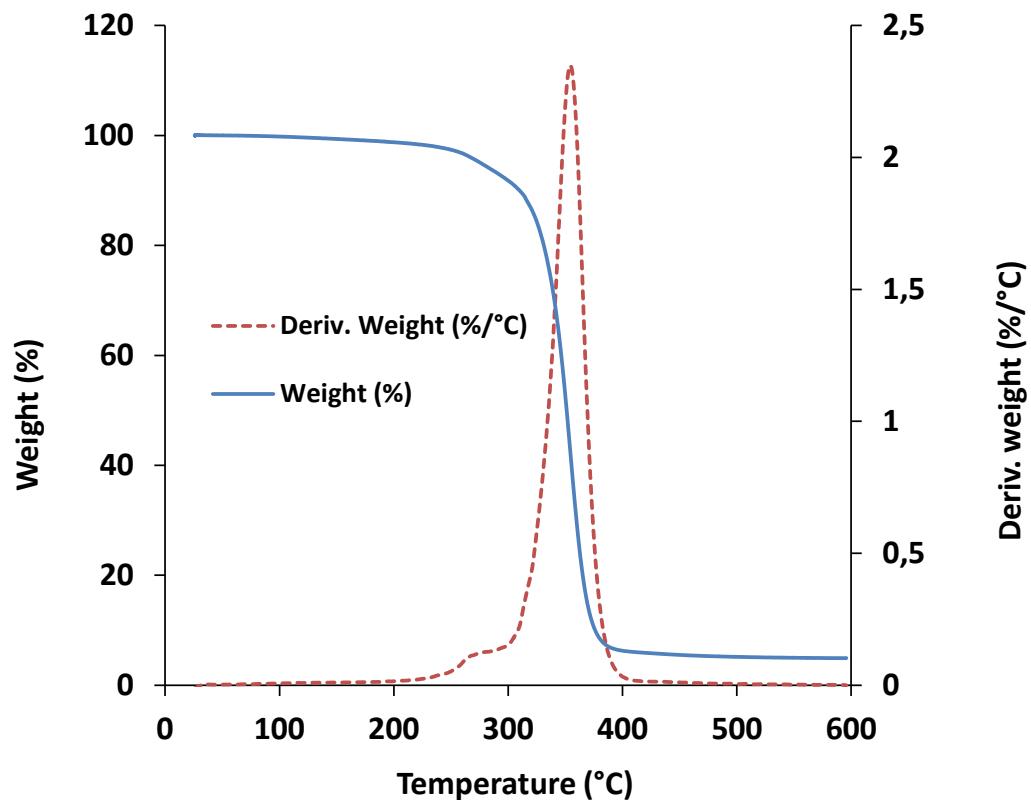
**Figure S 12.** Mechanism for the intramolecular transesterification of PTE explaining the formation of macrocycles.

### PTE oxidation

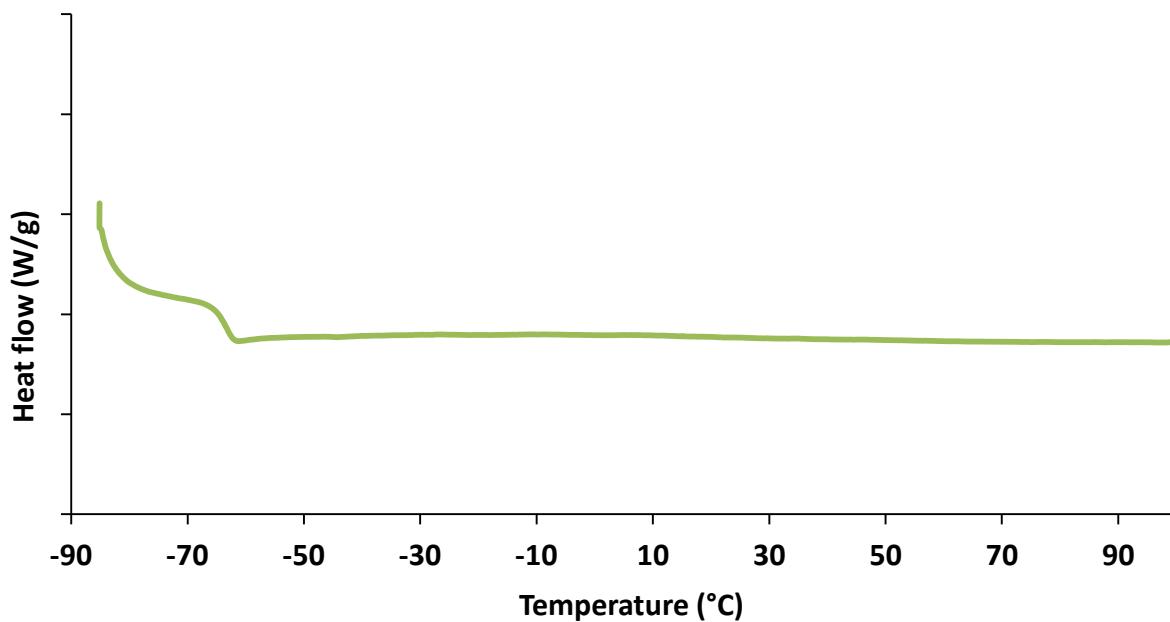


**Figure S 13.** ATR FT-IR spectrum of PTE before (green dot curve) and after (orange curve) oxidation (Table 1, run 14)

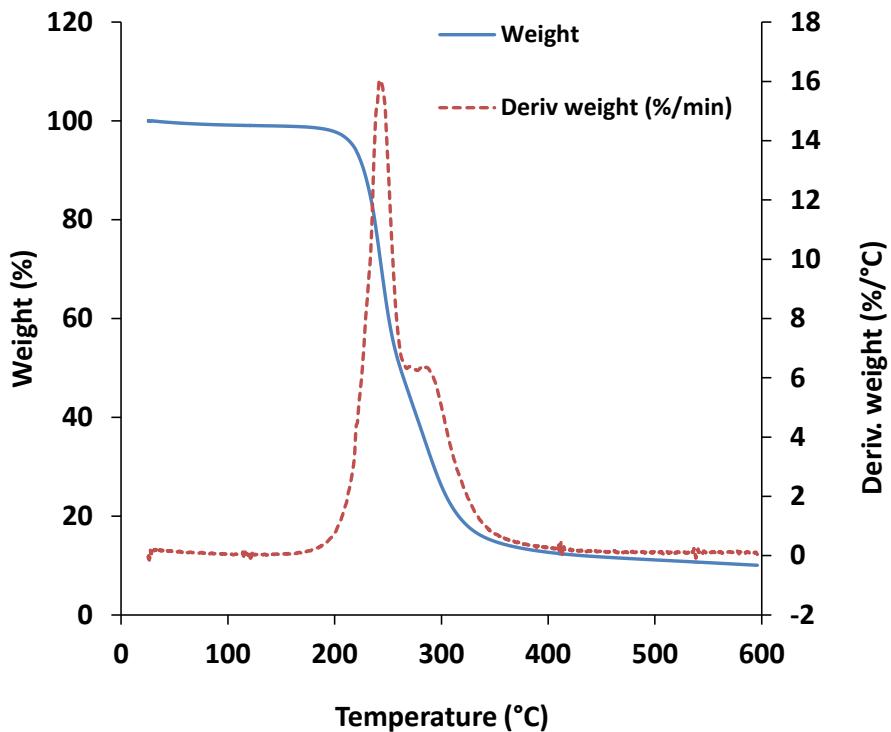
## Thermal properties



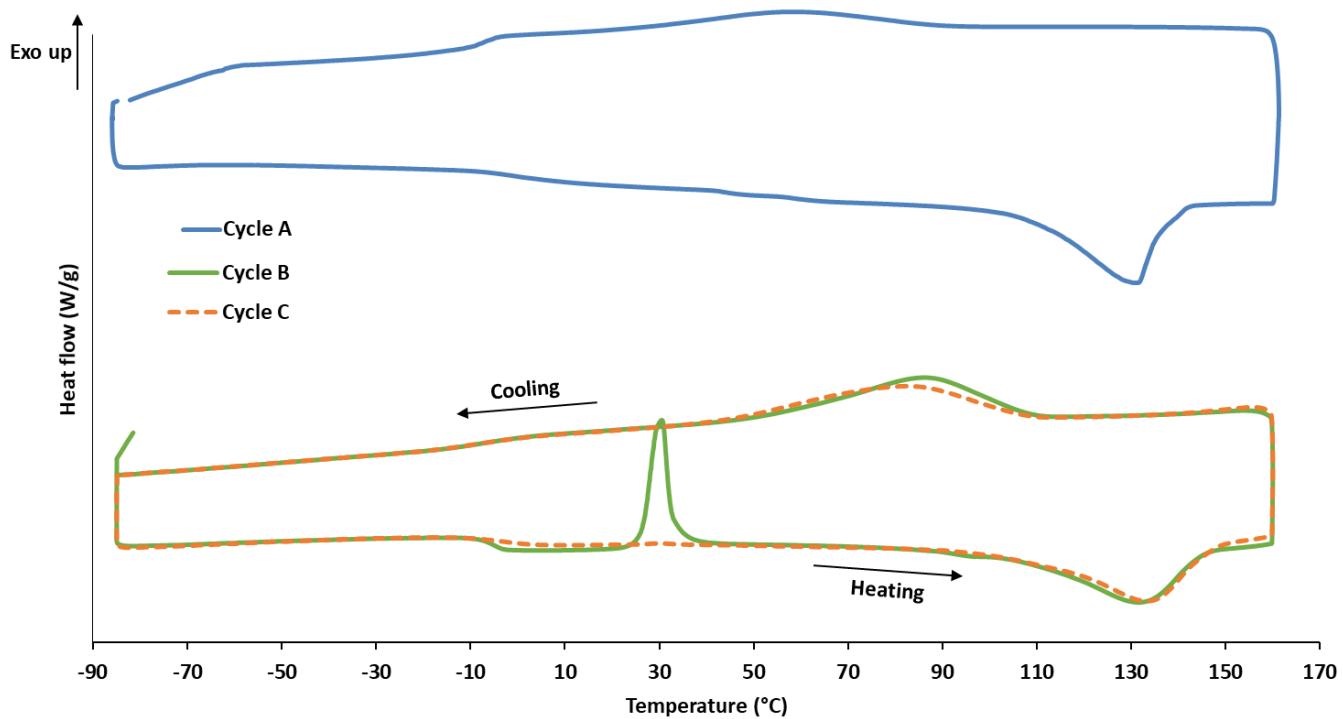
**Figure S 14.** TGA curve and its first derivative of a PTE (Table 1, run 8) measured under a stream of nitrogen between 25°C and 600 °C with a heating rate of 10 °C min<sup>-1</sup>



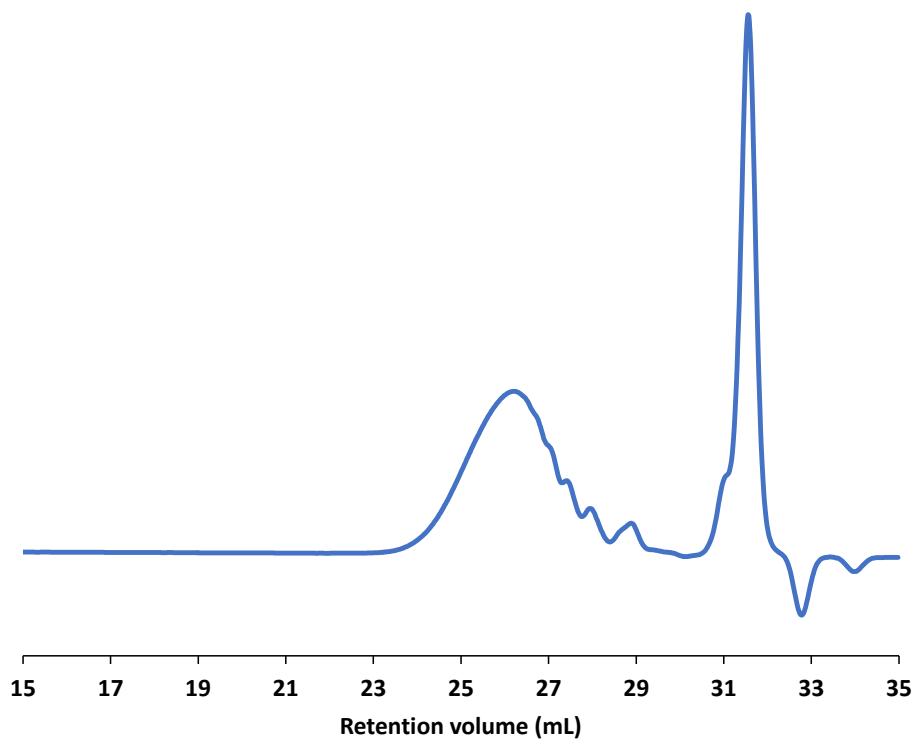
**Figure S 15.** DSC figures of PTE at 2 °C /min (Table 1, run 8)



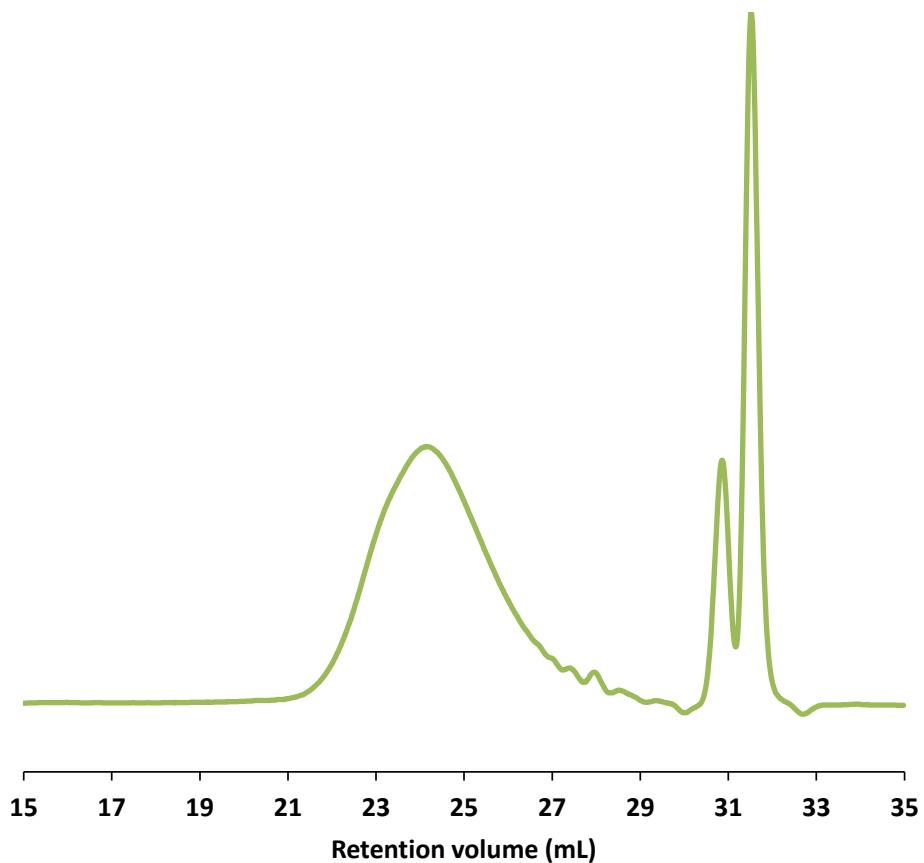
**Figure S 16.** TGA curve and its first derivative of a PTE after oxidation (Table 1, run 14) measured under a stream of nitrogen between 25°C and 600 °C with a heating rate of 10 °C min<sup>-1</sup>



**Figure S 17.** DSC figures of a PTE after oxidation (Table 1, run 14). Cycle A is at 10°C/min from -85°C to 155°C. Cycle B is at 2 °C /min from -85°C to 155°C ( $T_c = 89^\circ\text{C}$  ;  $T_f = 133^\circ\text{C}$  ; the  $T_c$  located at 37°C is reflecting the crystallization of the previous heating cycle made at 10 °C/min where no fusion occurred). Cycle C follows cycle A at 2°C/min from -85°C to 155°C.



**Figure S 18.** SEC trace of PTE synthesized in THF using benzyl alcohol-*t*BuP<sub>4</sub> as initiating system  
(Table 1, run 6)



**Figure S 19.** SEC trace of PTE synthesized in bulk using benzyl alcohol-*t*BuP<sub>4</sub> as initiating system  
(Table 1, run 8)

**Table S 1.** Solubility of alternated copolymers in organic solvent (10 mg/mL, room temperature, visual inspection)

Chemical nature	Solubility														
	H <sub>2</sub> O	MeOH	EtOH	DMF	Acetone	THF	Toluene	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	Cyclohexane	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	ACN	DMSO	Ethyl acetate	Diethyl ether	N-pentane
PTE (Table 1, run 7)	-	-	-	+	+	+	+/-	+	-	+	+/-	+	+	+	-
PTE <sub>ox</sub> (Table 1, run 14) <sup>c</sup>	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-

<sup>c</sup> After oxidation in THF and 2 eq of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> per repeating unit at room temperature and dialysis in 1 kDa membrane in water.