
Mission Clean Oceans

How can science and innovation tackle ocean pollution?

17 February 2020, 16:00-18:00
European Parliament Brussels
Room ASP 3HI

Our oceans and seas are in the process of turning into a gigantic waste dump. Pollution threatens ecological health, coastal security, our blue economy and a basis of our wellbeing. Plastic litter remains a great threat and a major environmental issue to people worldwide. The equivalent of 850 shipping containers filled with plastics are dumped into the rivers and ocean every day resulting now in over 5 trillion floating plastic pieces reaching even the most remote parts of our ocean. Excess nutrients, chemical and pharmaceutical waste, munition, noise, microbes, and other pollutants add further stress to the marine biodiversity and ecosystems.

The new European Commission's President aims to move Europe towards a zero-pollution ambition. In particular, the proposed new research and innovation programme Horizon Europe, includes Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters as one of the only five priorities ("Missions"). Issues of ocean pollution are also priority topics for the Joint Programming Initiative for Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI Oceans) and for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN*).

The European Commission's leadership towards a Green Deal, the recent constitution of the new European Parliament and re-establishment of its SEARICA Intergroup, and the progressing discussions of the Oceans Mission Board provide converging opportunities and an inspiring backdrop for experts and stakeholders to discuss how science and innovation can tackle the problem of ocean pollution from plastics and beyond.



**IUCN marine work is supported by Principauté de Monaco*

Participants are kindly requested to register as soon as possible on www.searica.eu in order to guaranty and organise the access to the EP. The day of the conference, participants are kindly requested to present themselves at 15:30 in order to avoid delays.

AGENDA

16:00 - 16:10 Welcome

Tonino Picula, MEP, President of the SEARICA Intergroup

Thorsten Kiefer, Executive Director of JPI Oceans

Luc Bas, Director of IUCN European Regional Office

16:10 - 16:20 Setting the Scene

Sigi Gruber, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

16:20 - 16:35 Keynote Speech

Marcella Hansch, CEO of Pacific Garbage Screening

16:35 - 17:10 Panel Discussion (conversation with and among panellists)

Moderator: Gesine Meissner, former MEP and Member of Mission Board Healthy Oceans

Antidia Citores, Spokeswoman Surfrider Europe and Member of Mission Board Healthy Oceans

Fazilet Cinaralp, Secretary General European Tyre and Rubber Manufacturers Assoc.

Mimmi Throne-Holst, Research Manager at SINTEF, JPI Oceans PLASTOX Project

Janaka de Silva, IUCN - Plastic Waste-Free Island

Adam Lillicrap, Norwegian Institute for Water Research

17:10 - 17:30 Q&A and Discussion with the Audience (15-25 min)

Moderator: Gesine Meissner

17:30 - 17:40 Conclusions

Catherine Chabaud, MEP, Vice-Chair for Climate and Governance

17:40 Reception
