

## Marine Litter

### *“European Answers to a Global Challenge”*

6th of September 2016

9:00 – 12:00

European Parliament – Room PHS 5B001

*Participants are kindly requested to register as soon as possible [here](#) in order to guaranty and organise the access to the EP. The day of the conference, should they need a badge, Participants are kindly requested to present themselves at the INFOPOINT of the European Parliament *Esplanade Simone Veil* at **08:30***

Marine Litter - not only a European but a global inescapable problem that has gained more awareness in recent years due to the seriousness of its impacts on our eco-systems, economies and society as a whole. Annually more than 100,000 marine mammals and 1 million birds die due to plastic pollution. Increasing scientific data on microplastics and possible effects on human health are currently being gathered. Unfortunately, each year millions and millions of tons of plastic continue to leak into our oceans, with shocking estimates even predicting that if business was to continue as usual, by 2050 there will be more plastics than fish in our oceans. With the European Commission's Circular Economy Package, proposals to review the Waste Directives and joint interests by different sectors to prevent waste happening in the first place, a new promising plastics strategy might be on the rise, one where the inclusion of marine litter is indispensable.

We all share responsibility in tackling this issue, therefore at this conference scientific academia, the NGO sector, industry representatives and policy makers will allow for a multi-stakeholder view. The problems might be numerous, but so are various solution-based approaches which we will jointly discuss at the event.

#### Welcome and Introductory remarks

Mrs **Gesine MEISSNER**, MEP, Chair of the SEARICA-Intergroup

Mr. **Ricardo SERRÃO SANTOS**, MEP, Vice-Chair of the Intergroup

#### Discussion 1: Are there solutions to the global environmental problem of marine litter?

Moderated by **Catherine Bearder**, MEP, Member of the Intergroup

First Round:

- Ms **Sigi GRUBER**, Head of Marine Resources Unit, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
- Mr **Philippe DE BACKER**, Belgian Secretary of State for Social fraud, Privacy and the North Sea
- Ms **Heike IMHOFF**, Head of Division Protection of the Marine Environment, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
- Mr **Lars SONESTEN**, Chair of the HELCOM Pressure Group, Swedish University of Agricultural Science.

Second Round:

- Ms **Heather LESLIE**, Coordinator CleanSea Project, Institute for Environmental Studies VU University Amsterdam
- Mr **Joost DUBOIS**, Head of Communication of The Ocean Cleanup
- Mr **Bernhard BAUSKE**, Head of Strategic Business Partnering, WWF
- Ms **Cecilia DONATI**, Institutional Relations Officer, Mercator Oceans
- Ms **Lauriane ERNEST**, Partnership Officer and Spokesperson, Expédition 7e continent

## Panel discussion and Q&A

### Discussion 2: Rethinking the Future of Plastics - Marine Litter and the Circular Economy?

Moderated by **Deirdre CLUNE**, MEP, Member of the Intergroup

First Round:

- Mr **Matjaz MALGAJ**, Head of Unit for the Marine Environment and Water Industries, European Commission
- Mr **Andy BOOTH**, Project Coordinator of the PLASTOX project, SINTEF Materials and Chemistry, Trondheim
- Mr **Michiel DE SMET**, Project Manager of the New Plastics Economy Initiative, Ellen MacArthur Foundation
- Ms **Stephanie MAES**, Project Manager, Waste Free Oceans

Second Round:

- Mr **Karl-H. FOERSTER**, Executive Director, Plastics Europe
- Ms **Gaëlle HAUT**, EU officer, Surfrider Foundation
- Ms **Emma PRIESTLAND**, Marine Litter Policy Officer, Seas at Risk

## Panel discussion and Q&A

### Closing Remarks

Mrs **Gesine MEISSNER**, MEP, Chair of the SEARICA-Intergroup