

## **Summary of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Litter High Level Preparatory Meeting, Brussels, 27 February 2012**

### **1. Opening remarks**

DG ENV chaired the meeting. A brief introduction round was held.

### **2. Summary of the last meeting**

- The meeting documents were introduced, including the agenda
- The summary report of the last meeting was recalled
- Reference was made to the new ENV.D2 marine website on Europa: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/index_en.htm)

### **3. Presentation and discussion of the action proposals received by the relevant stakeholders**

**Action 1** – *Contact your relevant networks (everybody)*

New members have been added to the group: European Community Shipowners' Associations, project leaders of the three 2011 Pilot Projects on marine litter (BIPRO, Arcadis, RPA).

**Action 2** - *Paper to identify bottle-necks, find solutions and make new ideas operational with regard to valuing the product and exchanging best practices on the handling of one product to the possible handling of another product (EEB, EuPR, Milieu).*

General comment was made on the "value of waste". This point will feed into the declaration and / or toolbox for the planned marine litter event.

**Action 3** – *Visit to a recycling plant (EuPR)*

EuPR will send possible dates for a visit to 2-3 recycling plants (mixed plastic waste and agricultural plastic waste) in Belgium.

**Action 4** – *Possible ways to reduce the use of free plastic carrier bags (Eurocommerce, KIMO)*

PlasticsEurope reported on the outcome of the "retail forum" that took place on 14 December 2011 – focus on use of plastic carrier bags. No concrete decisions for specific actions could be reported. DG ENV suggested collaboration with KIMO on their actions in coastal towns on the subject.

**Action 5** - *Compile a complete list of clean-up actions, including Member States, local authorities, fisheries sector and industry (Seas at Risk (SAR), EuPR, DG MARE, KIMO, PlasticsEurope)*

An updated overview of actions at local and national level was compiled by Milieu Ltd was circulated prior to the meeting.

It was concluded that actions do not focus on coastal areas only – more is going on than we know of.

DG ENV requested to send this list to the stakeholders' networks for further comments, in order to set up an "interim report" to be published at the marine litter event (re. "toolbox of measures").

**Action 6** – *Evaluation of pros and cons of the (3) fishing for litter methods (DG MARE, SAR, EuPR and Milieu)*

EuPR reported on the collaboration and Scotland event with KIMO and the fishing industry. Reference was made to the "fishing for litter" project and the need to identify best practises amongst existing (3) different methods: fishing for litter by fisherman as by-catch of fishing, paying fishermen to go out and fish for litter and ghost net collection.

DG ENV suggested for EuPR, KIMO, SAR and DG MARE to meet on the subject. The outcome should feed into the declaration of the marine litter event.

**Action 7** - *Proposal for the Event (DG ENV)*

DG ENV circulated a draft declaration and toolbox of measures prior to the meeting. Further action proposals (long term / short term) welcome.

See further under agenda point 4 " Outline of the event: declaration and toolbox of measures"

#### **4. Outline of the event: declaration and toolbox of measures**

DG ENV briefly presented the outline of the planned event. Emphasis was put on concrete commitment by stakeholders and tangible actions (in line with the objectives of the MSFD to reach GES).

The declaration and the type / structure of the event were discussed at length, e.g.: what is the target audience, who will sign, who will present, what are the concrete actions and can be delivered in the long term (result). On the concrete measures (toolbox): what is the cost, what are the bottlenecks / challenges, conflict with other processes (e.g. project MARLISCO), set-up of a (web-based) database of measures, who owns / runs it, etc.

#### **5. Next steps**

At least 2 further meetings are needed to finalise preparations on input of the High Level Event.

DG ENV proposed for their consultant Milieu to meet the committed stakeholders to draft a list of existing initiatives and new concrete actions by their organisation before Easter. Pro Europe, Oxo-biodegradable Plastics Association (OPA), Seas at Risk, PlasticsEurope, EuPR, EUROPEN agreed to this process.

## 6. AOB

EuPR suggested to invite the fishing sector to the event. DG ENV complemented that the Regional Sea Conventions could also be invited but the focus is on the stakeholders and their commitment. The scope (of invitees) should not be too broad.

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Action points that resulted from the discussion

1. For **everybody**: Propose additional stakeholder associations to the group, if necessary.
2. **EuPR** to propose dates for a visit to (a) recycling plant(s), could possibly be combined with a meeting.
3. DG ENV (**Milieu**) continue compilation of list of clean-up actions, including Member States, local authorities, fisheries sector and industry. For **everybody**: send the list to your network for further update.
4. **DG MARE, SAR, EuPR, KIMO** to meet to evaluate pros and cons of the (3) fishing for litter methods.
5. **DG ENV (Milieu)** to interview 6 stakeholders before Easter.

The (24) participants included representatives from:

**Industry**: European Plastic Recyclers (EuPR / Waste Free Oceans); European Organization for Packaging and the Environment (EUROPEN); European Association of the Plastic Manufacturing Industry (PlasticsEurope); Packaging Recovery Organisation Europe (Pro-Europe); Oxo-biodegradable Plastics Association (OPA); European Plastics Converters (EUPC); European Bioplastics Industry Association; Ecology of Products and Environmental Communication (ECOPEC)

**Distribution**: European Retail Association (Eurocommerce)

**Harbour and Shipping organisation**: European Cruise Council

**NGOs**: Marine Conservation Society (MSC); European Environmental Bureau (EEB); Stichting De Noordzee / North Sea Foundation; Seas at Risk (SAR)

**European Commission**: DG Environment (Waste Unit, Marine Unit with consultant from Milieu Ltd., BIPRO, RPA Ltd, Arcadis); DG Enterprise