

Your Voice In Europe: ROADMAP feedback for Communication: Strategy on Plastic in a Circular Economy (including action on marine litter)

User's data:

- Domain: Non governmental organisation
- Name: Gaëlle HAUT
- Email: ghaut@surfrider.eu
- Country: Belgium
- Organisation: SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE
- Headquarter: select
- Register: 58969291154-50
- Size: select
- Publication: can be published with your personal information

Related document: Communication: Strategy on Plastic in a Circular Economy (including action on marine litter)

Feedback:

Plastics pollution in the marine and aquatic environments:

Plastics account for up to 80% of marine litter. Plastic is therefore largely responsible for pollution in and around aquatic environments, in particular in the marine environment. Plastics are not only a visual pollution, they also weigh heavily on the budgets of the public authorities responsible for collecting them and impact significantly maritime and coastal economic activities. They have destructive impacts on marine species, the marine environment itself and all the services that this environment provides. Present in the food chain, they are also a threat to human health.

While plastic production and consumption is estimated to exponentially increase, nearly 50% of plastic waste is still landfilled in the EU. At a global level, it is estimated that 15-51 trillion plastic particles are floating on the surface of Oceans and in a business-as-usual scenario the ocean is expected to contain 1 tonne of plastic for every 3 tonnes of fish by 2025 and by 2050 more plastics than fish (by weight).

Surfrider Foundation Europe:

Created in 1990 in Europe, Surfrider Foundation Europe (SFE) is a non-profit organisation whose mission is the protection and the enhancement of the seas and oceans, the waves, and the coastlines in Europe. SFE structures its work around six work programmes, including climate change, marine litter, water quality and health. SFE works both at local level and with national and European institutions. SFE currently brings together 41 local chapters in 12 EU countries, close to 10,000 members, and over 115,000 supporters throughout Europe. Since its Inception, it has been devoted to raising public awareness on the issue of marine litter and plastics pollution while at the same time developing campaigns aimed at tightening national and European regulations. To better understand the origins and impacts of plastics and litter in the environment and on health, Surfrider has developed various

environmental projects that combine scientific expertise, monitoring and participatory science. To help European companies, local authorities, consumers and cities to make the transition to a circular economy and rise above plastics, Surfrider has developed a Rise above plastics programme targeting single use items such plastic bags, bottles and microbeads. Surfrider Foundation Europe is the European member of the Surfrider global network together with Surfrider in the USA, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan and Morocco. SFE is an active member of the Break free from plastics movement.

SFE's feedback on the Plastics Roadmap:

Surfrider welcomes the priority given in this road map to the fight against marine litter but is concerned about the solutions being favored and the lack of clarity and ambition in the measures put forward in the roadmap. The solutions envisaged by the Commission are insufficient to achieve the objectives the priority sets. By proposing to substitute plastics with other types of plastic, including biodegradable plastics, that are equally polluting for the aquatic environments or by favoring recycling at the expense of prevention and reuse, Europe is on the wrong track. . Biodegradable plastics are not an answer to littering or marine litter, as these technologies do not allow these plastics to fully biodegrade in a limited time in sea water.

Surfrider strongly believes prevention, reducing consumption of single-use plastics, designing products to be repaired, durable, reused and if not, recycled into new products, and putting a consumer value on plastics through economic instruments they are less likely to be carelessly disposed of and end up in the oceans. Reducing marine litter means huge benefits for our societies and for the marine environment: increased resilience of our ocean biodiversity, contribution to fighting climate change, increased well-being for citizens, and economic savings for local authorities and other economic activities at sea and on the coast.

Our demands:

**Promote prevention and reuse through economic incentives for reusable and durable products, deposit-refund schemes and penalise single-use products, non-recyclable plastics and over-packaged items*

**Introduce specific prevention measures on top plastic items found on beaches*

**Strengthen extended producer responsibility schemes*

**Ban the landfilling of plastics waste*

**Increase recycling targets for plastics and oblige Member States to separately collect plastics*

**Promote green purchasing of products and services*

**Ensure better enforcement, control and sanctions*

**Fight single-use plastics*

**Promote eco-design*

**Ban plastic microbeads in cleaning and care products at European level*

**Pursue scientific research to better understand aquatic waste, its nature, origin, trajectory, to better process plastic waste and evaluate its impact on marine ecosystems and human health.*

**Increase awareness and inform the public on environment conservation and plastic pollution*

**Address plastic pollution coming from sea-based sources - in particular, losses of containers- and resulting from the use of biomedica which are used in sewage treatment plants for the purification of wastewater and which are increasingly found*

by our volunteers on river shores and beaches

**Process waste at its root : get rid of plastic on a day-to-day basis. European institutions should be exemplary and should be single-use-plastic free.*

**Promote action and research on waterways such as rivers*

**Rethink ways of producing and consuming : don't substitute "conventional plastics" with other types of single-use or problematic plastics as this will only create new waste*

**Consider the benefits of the fight against waste in terms of savings for citizens, local authorities, gains in terms of well-being for Europeans and benefits for activities happening at sea and on the coastlines such as watersports activities, coastal tourism, fisheries, shipping, etc.*

Feedback file: