



CONFERENCE

Marine Litter Impact on Oceanic Ecosystems

Problems and solutions

1 July 2015

17:30-19:00

Room A1E1

European Parliament, Brussels

Chaired by:

Ricardo Serrão Santos MEP

Chair of the “Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services”
Working Group of the Intergroup

AGENDA

The growing global problem of marine litter has been recognized by the United Nations Environmental Assembly, the International Whaling Commission, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Convention on Migratory Species. Identified by these multi-lateral fora and the European Commission as a priority for action, the issue of marine litter has very serious consequences and should be properly addressed.

This event will focus on the increasingly serious environmental, economic and health threats posed by marine debris and programs put in place by the European Commission to combat it. Scientists will characterize the problem, including its dimension and consequences. The European Association for Aquatic Mammals, which brings together zoological parks engaged in the public display, research and conservation of aquatic mammals, will discuss specific impacts on whales, dolphins and other marine life through ingestion and entanglement and introduce the international “Our World Oceans Month” social media campaign (#DebrisFreeSea) it launched on 1 June together with the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums to raise awareness and motivate the public to take part of the solution. Waste Free Oceans, a ground breaking public-private Foundation, will outline its work to mobilize and unite the fisheries sector, public authorities and the international plastics industry in combating floating litter on the coastlines, at the rivers and in the seas.

Contact:

Kathleen Laissy, Secretariat of the EP Intergroup CCBSD, Ph. + 32 2 230 30 70, e-mail kathleen.laissy@ebcd.org



16:50-17:20

Registration

17:30-17:35

Welcome and introduction by Ricardo Serrão Santos MEP

17:35-17:45

Marianne Wenning, Director “Quality of Life, Water & Air”, DG Environment, European Commission

17:45-17:55

Dr. Christopher Pham, MARE – Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre, University of the Azores

17:55-18:05

Dr. Arlete Sogorb, President, European Association for Aquatic Mammals, Lisbon Zoo, Portugal

18:05-18:15

Mr. Bernard Merkx, Project Manager, Waste Free Oceans Foundation

18:15-18:55

Discussion with the audience

18:55-19:00

Closing remarks by Ricardo Serrão Santos MEP

Contact:

Kathleen Laissy, Secretariat of the EP Intergroup CCBSD, Ph. + 32 2 230 30 70, e-mail kathleen.laissy@ebcd.org