

# The effect of marine litter on fisheries & oceans

**Wednesday, 5 September 2018**

**18:00-20:00**

**European Parliament, ASP 3G2, Brussels**

**Co-chaired by:**

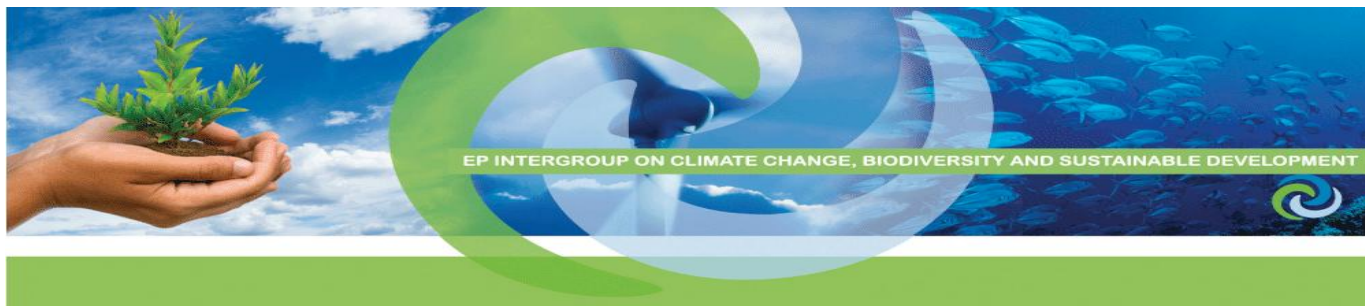
**Ricardo Serrão Santos MEP  
& Alain Cadec MEP**

Vice-Chairs of  
the European Parliament Intergroup on  
“Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development”

The problem of marine litter is transboundary by nature, as litter moves in the marine environment and litter originating from one country can affect others. Moreover, plastics are widely available, persistent and often have toxic and other harmful impacts. While the impacts of plastic litter are growing, each year more plastic waste accumulates in the oceans. Plastic residues are now found in many marine species – sea turtles, seals, whales, birds as well as in several species of fish and shell fish and therefore enter the food chain. Marine debris and derelict traps have also direct economic impacts, such as the ghost fishing, that reduces the fishery stocks otherwise available for commercial and recreational fishers, as well as indirect consequences, such as the loss of fishing opportunities due to the time spent for cleaning litter from fishing nets and propellers. All in all, apart from harming the environment and human health, plastic marine litter damages activities such as tourism, fisheries and shipping.

Therefore, as part of its ‘European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy’, the European Commission committed to look into further action to address plastic marine litter that builds on the piecemeal efforts underway in EU Member States. Furthermore, the Commission’s ‘Proposal for a new Directive on Port Reception Facilities’ aims to tackle sea-based sources of marine litter, while the introduction of the ‘Reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment’ proposal (‘single-used plastics’ proposal) addresses the prevention and decline of plastic marine litter from single use plastic items and fishing gear containing plastic, that can potentially be transformed to micro-plastics.

This event will bring together key policy-makers, private and NGOs’ sectors, to discuss and explore these new European Commission proposals. Moreover, the possible ways of their implementation in EU Member States will be addressed, alongside the significant challenges for stakeholders and their contributing actions towards the achievement of these new policy measures.



## DRAFT AGENDA

- 18:00-18:05** Welcome by **Ricardo Serrão Santos MEP**
- 18:05-18:10** Introductory remarks from **MEP Maria Spyra**, EPP Shadow Rapporteur for ITRE opinion on the 'single-used plastics' proposal
- 18:10-18:20** Keynote speech by **Bernhard Friess**, Director of 'Maritime Policy and Blue Economy' Directorate, DG MARE
- 18:20-18:30** Reaction from **Massimo Paolucci MEP**, ENVI Shadow Rapporteur for the 'single-used plastics' proposal  
Video message by **Alain Cadec MEP**
- 18:30-19:10** **Panel I: national and international efforts to tackle marine litter**
- **Joanna Toole**, Fishing Operations and Technology Branch, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations:  
*"Progress towards addressing abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear at intergovernmental level and next steps for implementation"*
  - **Christine Haffner-Sifakis**, Strategic Policy & Programme Officer, United Nations Environment Programme:  
*"Progress on UN Environment's work on healthy, resilient and productive oceans"*
  - **Hæge Andenæs**, Director General, Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment
- Questions from the audience**
- 19:10-19:55** **Panel II: stakeholders' perspectives**
- **Nadia Moalla Gil**, Project Manager, Confederación Española de Pesca (Cepesca)
  - **Janica Borg**, Policy coordinator for marine protection and spatial planning, WWF – European Policy Office:  
*"No More Plastic in Our Oceans"*
  - **Dr. Dominic Hogg**, Eunomia Research & Consulting:  
*"Key sources of marine litter and potential responses"*
- Questions and discussion with the audience**
- 19:55-20:00** Concluding remarks by **Ricardo Serrão Santos MEP**