



Ricardo Serrão Santos MEP, Vice-chair of the Intergroup
“Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development”
&
Luc Bas, Director of the **IUCN European Regional Office**

Are pleased to invite you to the event:

Marine Plastics Need European Action

8 November 2017, 18.00 - 20.00
European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium
Room A5E-2



Photo credit: Pixabay

INVITATION

Plastic waste is increasingly impacting the marine environment and becoming one of the most challenging issues for global and European marine and coastal species and ecosystems. Growing scientific evidence and an increase in public awareness on the sources of plastic waste and their impacts on marine and coastal environments, demonstrate the need for more action at European level.

In December 2015, the European Commission adopted an EU Action Plan for Circular Economy. In an effort to tackle the issue of marine plastic litter, the European Commission has planned to launch its Strategy on Plastics by the end of this year.

The event aims to support an ambitious European Strategy on Plastics that takes action to fulfill the objective of significantly reducing marine litter. An IUCN report on existing national and sub-national policies tackling this issue in EU Member States, including recommendations in reducing marine litter in Europe, will be launched during the event.

Relevant decision makers and conservationists, including Commissioner Karmenu Vella and Pierre-Yves Cousteau, will participate and contribute to the discussion.

To register for this event, please follow this [link](#).

For more information, please contact Alberto Arroyo Schnell (alberto.arroyo@iucn.org).

Agenda

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|----------------------|---|
| 18:00 – 18:10 | Welcome and introduction by MEP Ricardo Serrão Santos |
| 18:10 – 18:20 | Keynote speech
Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries; European Commission |
| 18:20 – 18:35 | Setting the scene - the ocean plastics challenge
Pierre-Yves Cousteau |
| 18:35 – 19:50 | Panel debate: European Action for Marine Plastic Litter
Moderator: Luc Bas, Director; IUCN European Regional Office

<i>The international dimension</i>
Ulf Björnholm, Head, UN Environment Brussels Office

<i>National perspectives</i>
Portugal – General Director for Maritime Politics, Fausto Brito e Abreu |

Sweden – to be confirmed

Private sector's views

Karl Foerster, Executive Director; Plastics Europe

Civil Society's views

Ann Dom, Deputy Director; Seas at Risk

19:50 – 20:00

Concluding remarks

MEP Ricardo Serrão Santos

Luc Bas, IUCN Regional Office