

Subject: Intensified surveillance in the return of waste from ships and the use of biodegradable packaging on ships

Dear [Mr/Mrs + Family Name/Function]

We are writing to you on behalf of all the partners involved in the project MarineClean, which is trying to reduce the amount of plastic litter formation. Besides offering concrete technical solutions, our aim is also to improve legislation regarding marine litter reduction.

Marine litter is a growing threat not only for marine environment, but also for public health. Most of the litter in marine and coastal environment is made of non-degradable materials – 89-95 % only of plastic - which presents a severe danger both in short- and long-term. Plastic that floats in the sea or lies on the sea floor can fall into small pieces, which are great absorbers of heavy metals, pesticides, PCBs and other toxins. Plastic particles enter into the marine food web and accumulate in marine animals and consequently in humans. Intensified marine pollution is therefore better to be prevented than cured.

We all share the benefits of clean and healthy marine environment; hence we all also share the responsibility to preserve it. Our main innovative output will be edible and biodegradable barrier packaging for ships, which will reduce the amount of nondegradable plastics thrown in the sea. However, effective reduction of marine litter won't come only from ideas and innovations, but it also needs to be encouraged by legislation.

There are three main areas where stricter legislation needs to be imposed:

- intensified surveillance in the garbage return from ships, mainly passenger ships, that would result in prevention of marine litter;
- grants and/or discounts of higher use of edible and biodegradable packing materials, that would end up in less waste;
- equal rules on European and national level protocols for reuse/recycling of waste (e.g. collected recyclable plastic for equipment and fishing nets production).

We urge you to strongly consider the proposed legal changes and try to influence the decision making process and implementation of more rigorous legislation on your national and EU level. We believe it's high time for effective marine litter reduction, but this can't be achieved without your engagement.

We are looking forward to hearing from you. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

[Name and family Name], [Function], [Company/Organisation]

[Date]