

Subject: Reducing plastic litter accumulation in marine environment and higher use of biodegradable/edible packaging in coastal areas

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 accumulation in marine and coastal environment. Besides offering concrete technical solutions, our aim is also to improve legislation regarding marine litter reduction.

Marine littering has become a serious problem on a global scale. It threatens coastal and marine environment, marine organisms, human health and safety and various human activities on the coast and in the sea. At least 75% of litter in sea is of coastal origin, brought into the sea by rivers and wind or human coastal activities (tourism, sports, leisure). 89-95 % of the litter in marine environment is made of plastic and therefore non-degradable, which causes harm to environment in long-term.. In order to prevent further littering of our seas and achieve sustainability, we need to act now.

MarineClean offers a solution. We are developing and producing edible primary and biodegradable primary and secondary packaging. Common biodegradable materials break down into organic components without causing dangerous pollution when composted. But only a few materials degrade in the marine environment. EcoOcean, produced by EcoCortec, is one of them. Edible packaging can be eaten by humans and by marine animals. Use of such biodegradable and/or edible packaging will reduce the amount of plastic litter in marine environment.

We all share the benefits of clean and healthy marine environment; hence we all also share the responsibility to preserve it. This means that edible and/or biodegradable packaging should be supported on many levels, *inter alia* political and legal one in order to become more widely known. We therefore urge you to make changes in legislation or help influence the decision making process in such a way that grants or discounts for higher use of edible and biodegradable packing materials will be available.

Since the consumption of plastics probably won't be reduced, the best solution for lowering levels of marine littering is edible and biodegradable packaging. We believe it's high time for effective marine litter reduction and cleaning up coastal environment, 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]



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[Date]