



**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

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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. Contributing to the objective of greater action on marine plastic waste, IUCN will launch a report on existing national policies tackling the issue in EU Member States.

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](mailto:alberto.arroyo@iucn.org)).

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## Agenda

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|----------------------|--|
| <b>18:00 – 18:10</b> | <b>Welcome and introduction</b> by MEP Ricardo Serrão Santos   |
| <b>18:10 – 18:20</b> | <b>Keynote speech</b><br>Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries; European Commission  |
| <b>18:20 – 18:35</b> | <b>Setting the scene - the ocean plastics challenge</b><br>Pierre-Yves Cousteau  |
| <b>18:35 – 19:50</b> | <b>Panel debate: European Action for Marine Plastic Litter</b><br>Moderator: Luc Bas, Director; IUCN European Regional Office<br><br><i>The international dimension</i><br>Ulf Björnholm, Head, UN Environment Brussels Office |

*National perspective*

Portugal – Fausto Brito e Abreu; Director General for Maritime Policy

*Private sector's views*

Karl Foerster, Executive Director; Plastics Europe

*Civil Society's views*

Monika Verbeek, Deputy Director; Seas at Risk

**19:50 – 20:00**

**Concluding remarks**

MEP Ricardo Serrão Santos

Luc Bas, IUCN Regional Office