

Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

Sustainable Infrastructure
Sustainable Tourism
Education for Sustainable Development

5-7 of October 2022
Nicosia-Cyprus

SIDE EVENT AGENDA

Marine litter and marine plastic pollution a major environmental and tourism challenge: monitoring & participatory science

7 October 2022, 13:45-15:15, Jean Monnet building (Filoxenia)
[English] [Live]

The side event aims at bringing all participants up-to-speed regarding ongoing Mediterranean efforts and initiatives focused on monitoring and assessment of marine litter (also via participatory science), within the overall context of the Open Science Agenda and the UN Decade for Ocean Science. Selected initiatives will be showcased and it will be highlighted how these initiatives are contributing and/or supporting the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Ecosystem Approach and the Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean of the Barcelona Convention, the UfM GreenerMedAgenda, etc. The event will feature results and findings demonstrating the extent of the problem, which in turn induces negative effects for the tourism and recreational sector. On the other hand, the inputs of litter from tourism and recreational activities will also be underlined. The event will present cutting-edge approaches, best practices and lessons learned and will catalyze exchanges and discussions towards replication and upscaling actions. The side event will also provide a Mediterranean input to the related ongoing global debate on the elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution at UNEA 5.2, covering the full life cycle of plastics, especially now that the work of the mandated Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) is about to formally kick-start.

Co-Organisers /LOGOS

MIO-ECSDE
HELLENIC MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY
UNEP/MAP
UfM
HELMEPA

Chairperson: Petros VARELIDIS, General Secretary of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece

Facilitator: Thomais Vlachogianni, Senior Programme/Policy Officer, MIO-ECSDE

Rapporteur: Anastasia Roniotes, Head Officer, MIO-ECSDE

Preliminary Agenda (v.2)

<i>Time</i>	<i>Speakers/Presentations</i>
13:45-13:55	Opening remarks, speakers' introduction & setting the scene Petros VARELIDIS, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece Michael SCOULLOS, MIO-ECSDE/WES
13:55-14:05	Barcelona Convention advances on marine litter and marine litter monitoring in the Mediterranean Tatjana HEMA, UNEP/MAP
14:05-14.15	Marine Litter at UfM, an evolving experience: synchronizing multi-countries and multi stakeholders processes and projects Alessandra SENSI, UfM
14:15-14.25	Generating fit-for-purpose marine litter data (also via participatory science) in the Mediterranean: showcases, lessons learned & outlook Thomais Vlachogianni, MIO-ECSDE
14:25-14.35	Addressing the challenge of marine litter and plastic pollution in Greece Petros VARELIDIS, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy
14:35-14.40	EU policy advances on marine litter monitoring and results and findings from the Marine LitterWatch EEA (video message)
14.40-14.50	Citizen science actions on marine litter in Greece: challenges & impact Aristidis PITTAS, HELMEPA
14.50-15.10	<i>Facilitated interactive discussion on the following topics:</i> <i>One marine litter items classification list in the EuroMediterranean: is it feasible or utopic?</i> <i>Participatory science vs cleanup actions in relation to marine litter monitoring: a nuisance or of added value under certain conditions?</i> <i>The sprawling field of marine litter data collection and reporting apps: challenges vs opportunities</i>
15.10-15.15	Wrap up & concluding remarks Chairperson