



Marine Litter in View of Plastics Producers

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Kieler Marktplatz, 15. Februar 2012

PlasticsEurope
Association of Plastics Manufacturers

Central Europe

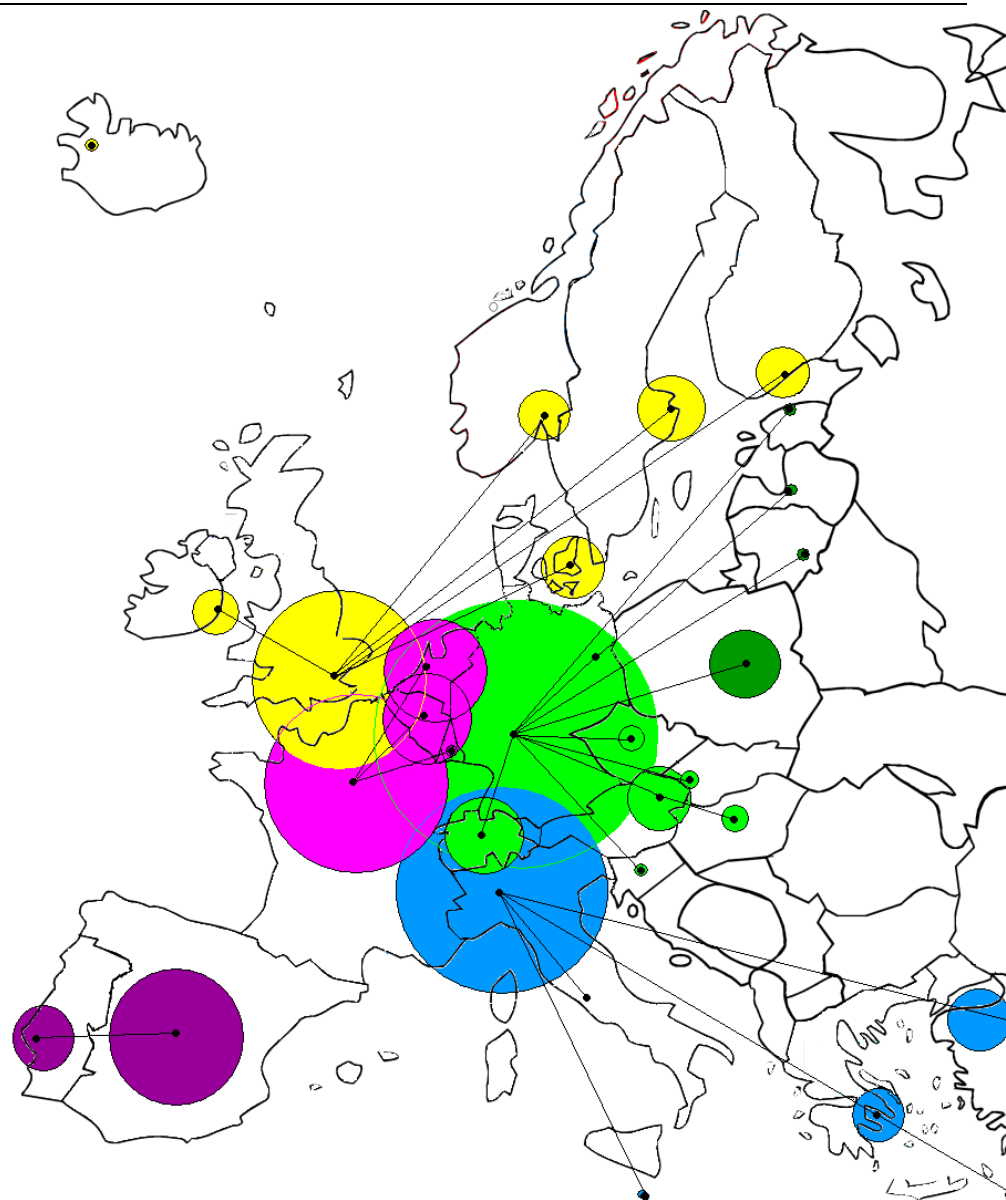
- Germany
 - Switzerland
 - Austria
 - CZ, H, SK, SLO
- Poland
 - Baltic Countries

Northern
Europe

Western
Europe

Mediterranean

Iberia



- Plastics are durable and persistent in the environment, therefore plastics litter in any environment is unacceptable
- **Plastics can bring sustainable solutions** provided that their use is supported by:
 - Appropriate policies
 - Infrastructure
 - Consumer behaviour
- The plastic industry must work in partnerships, as a responsible stakeholder, contributing with its expertise and resources to shape solutions across society for zero littering.
- Our vision: A society where waste is no longer reaching our oceans and is properly handled and recycled or recovered.

4 examples of initiatives

1. MarineLitterSolution project
2. Contribution to GESAMP Assessment
3. Knowledge transfer of waste management practices
4. Prevent pellets losses

1. Marine Litter Solutions

- International Plastic Industry coalition requiring active national players to ensure success and outreach
- We will:
 - Initiate and deliver actions to shape solutions for marine litter by ourselves or with other committed external allies in partnership
 - Raise the awareness of the impact of marine litter in the environment among our international plastic industry



Declaration on Marine Litter

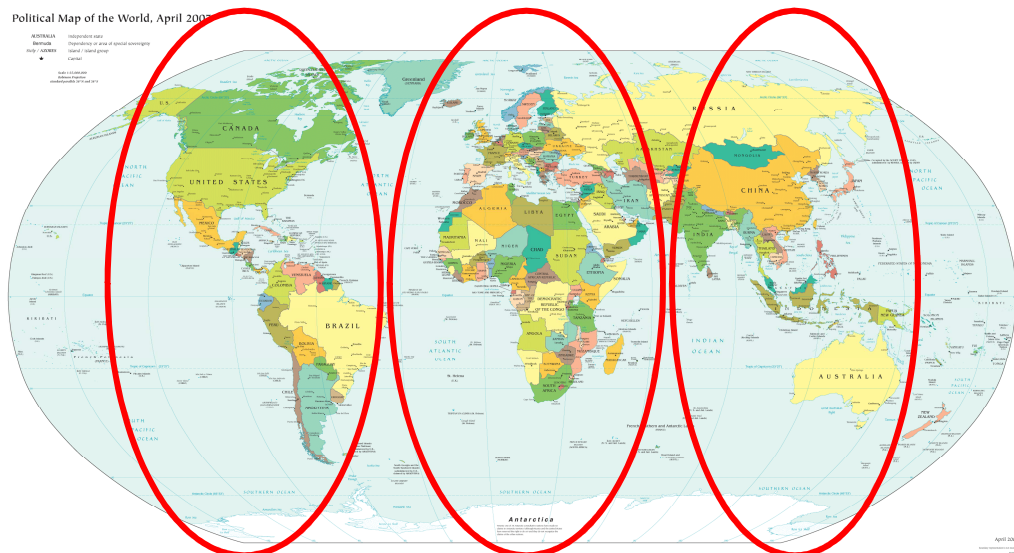
56 Signatories

34 Countries Represented

The 6 focus areas of the declaration are:

1. Contribute to solutions by public private **partnerships** aimed at preventing marine debris
2. Work with **academia** to better understand scope, origins and impact of waste in sea and to find solutions
3. Promote comprehensive science-based policies and **enforcement of existing laws** to prevent marine litter
4. **Spread knowledge** about eco-efficient waste practices in principle, particularly in communities and countries with coastal regions
5. Enhance opportunities for **recycling and energy recovery**
6. Steward transport and distribution of plastics resins and products from supplier to customer to **prevent product loss**

More than 100 actions undertaken

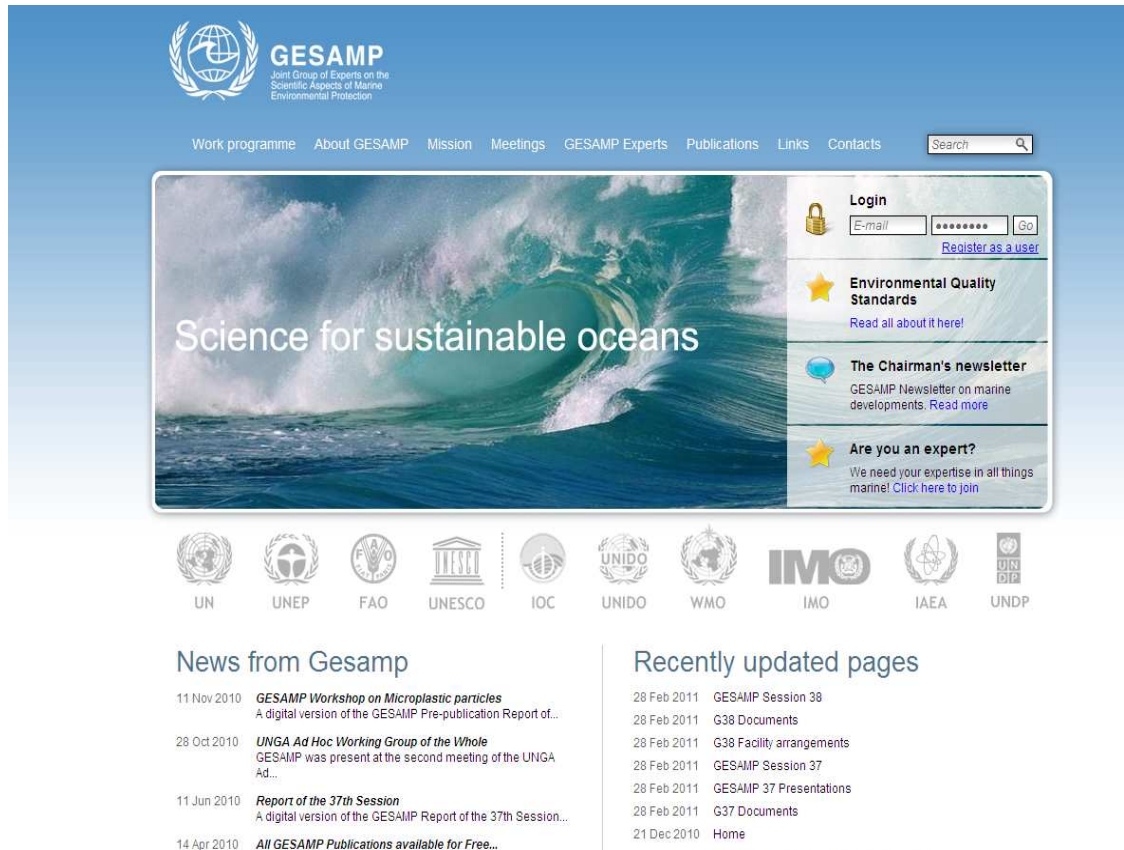


Europe/Gulf/Africa	45 %
America	31 %
East Asia/India/Australia	24 %

MarineLitterSolutions project:

- Active in different regions, e.g. in Germany: land-sourced litter project of Ökoinstitut Darmstadt, commissioned by BKV
- Global website: www.marinelittersolutions.org

2. GESAMP Assessment of the impact of micro-plastics in the marine environment



GESAMP (The Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection)

Advisory body of the United Nations system on the scientific aspects of marine environmental protection

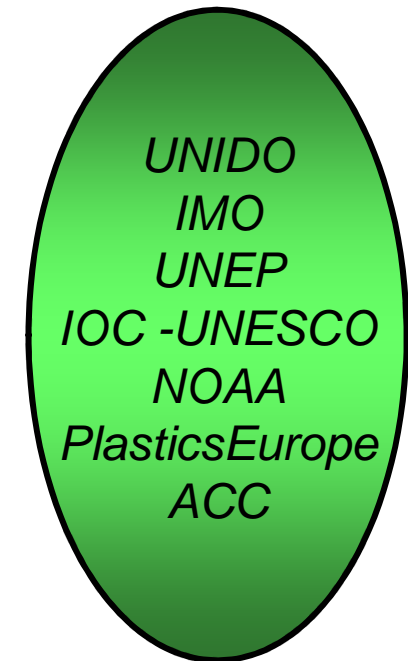
Content of the project: Terms of Reference

1. Estimate rates of inputs of micro-plastics (resin pellets, abrasives, personal care products) and plastics (including main polymer types); involves developing methodology, using monitoring data, identifying proxies (e.g. population centres, shipping routes, tourism revenues).
2. Modelling transport, distribution & areas of accumulation.

3. Processes (physical, chemical & biological) controlling the rate of fragmentation and degradation, including estimating long-term behaviour.
4. Modelling continues using inputs from 1 and 3

5. Uptake by biota and biological impacts

2012



2015

3. Knowledge transfer of waste management practices



- Globally, most of marine litter is **land sourced** and we believe that landfills and a land-filling mentality in our society contribute substantially to marine litter.
- Eliminating landfills will prevent part of the marine litter and a proper waste collection will also contribute to **increase the awareness** of the consumer about litter.

⇒ Strategy on Plastics Waste Management

- The waste value chain consists of 5 key steps
- Action on: prevention, collection, quality recycling and energy recovery
- Implementation plan
- Brochure and video: too valuable to throw away

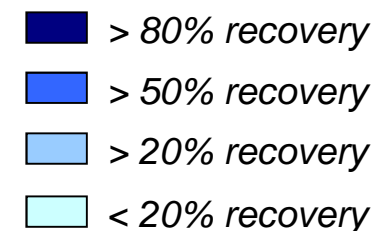
Post-consumer plastics management in Europe (EU-27+CH/NO) 2010



EU average:
58% recovery

9 top countries:
CH, DE, DK, SE, AT,
BE, NL, NO, LU

Below average:
outer regions
(15 countries landfill
more than 60%)



Source: Consultic 2011

- Contribute to **sustainable waste management** of end-of-life products containing plastics by utilising its material and energy resources
- Focus on countries according to country assessment
- Today's focus is **France, Poland, Spain and UK** (*further countries evolve*)



- Use **the know-how** about plastics waste management and make it **effective locally**
 - Establish relationships with stakeholders in value chain
 - Support to dialogue and networking
 - Contribute to information and education
 - Use communication channels (*conferences, media, publication etc.*)
 - Provide technical support

Too valuable to be thrown away

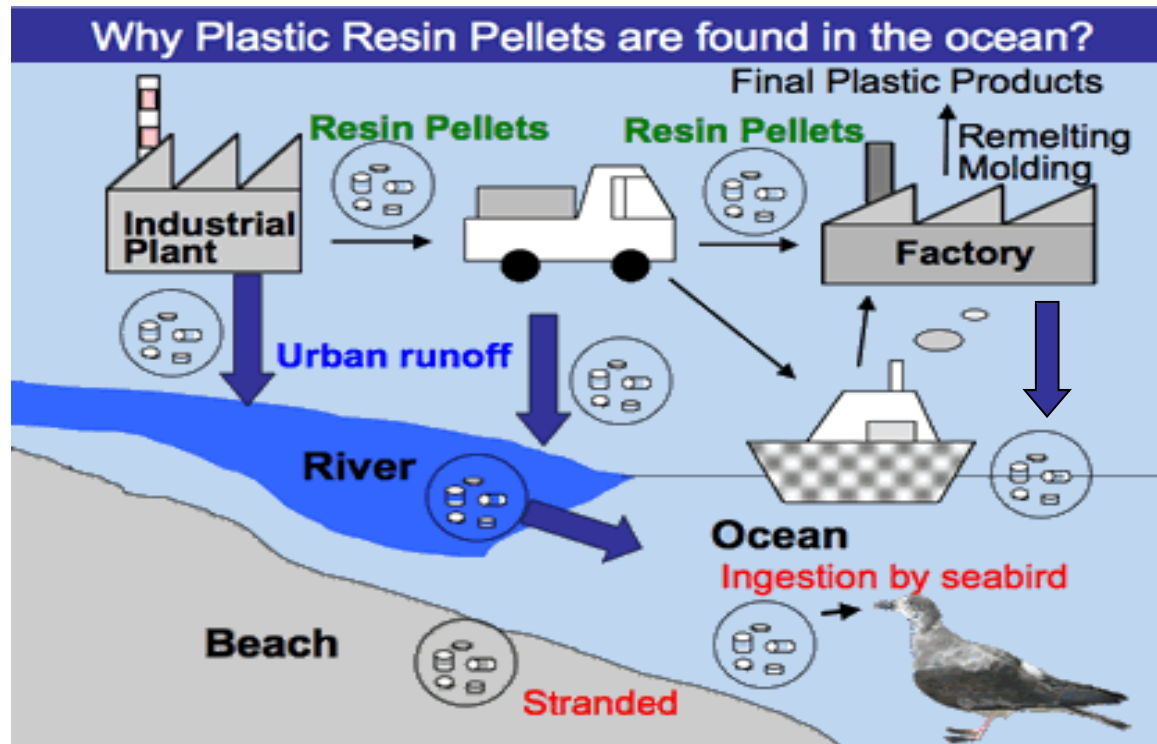
arabic,
english,
french,
german,
polish,
portuguese,
spanish



4. Prevent pellet losses



4. Prevent pellet losses



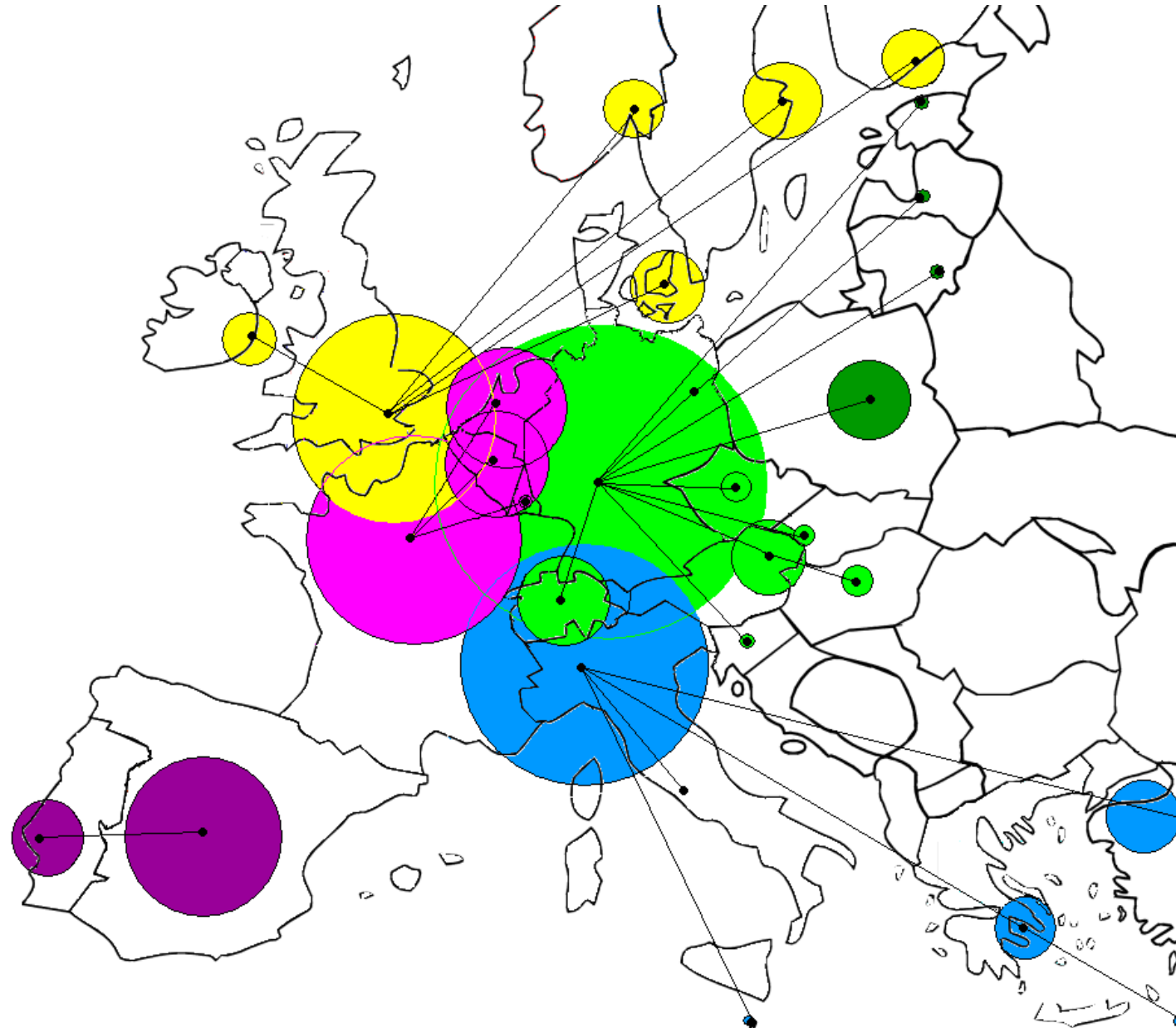
1 kg polymer equals approx. 50,000 pellets

150,000 t/factory

57 Mt polymer produced in Europe

46 Mt plastics demanded by converters in Europe

What can we do?



Conclusions

- We are committed to be part of the solution
 - Learn about marine litter
 - Promote best policies and improve plastic waste management
 - Increase the awareness of our society about marine litter
- Global effort to increase the awareness among our industry around the world
- Product stewardship





Plastics

The Material for the 21st Century

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