



National marine plastic litter policies in EU Member States: an overview

November 2017



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Acronyms

AGE	Administración General del Estado
ARC	La Agència de Residus de Catalunya
BM	Basuras Marinas
BMLFUW	The Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCAA	Comunidades Autónomas
D10	Descriptor 10 (of MSFD)
DCSM	Directive Cadre Stratégie
DGA	Dirección General del Agua
DGCEAMN	Dirección General de Calidad y Evaluación Ambiental y Medio Natural
DKK	Danish Kroner
DM	Ministerial Decree
DMA	Directiva Marco del Agua
DMS	Department of Merchant Shipping
EC	European Commission
ECOLEX	Information service on environmental law, operated jointly by FAO, IUCN and UN Environment
EDAR	Estación Depuradora de Aguas Residuales
EMAS	EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
EUR	Euro
EWI	The Flanders Department of Economy, Science and Innovation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAP	Dutch Framework Agreement 2013-2022 on packaging
FB	Fundación Biodiversidad
FEE	Foundation for Environmental Education
FFG	Austrian Research Promotion Agency
FFL	Fishing For Litter
FPRiC	Fundación para la Prevención de Residuos y el Consumo Responsable
GENCAT	Generalitat de Catalunya
GES	Good Environmental Status
GMPP	Global Marine and Polar Programme
GPA	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
GPI	Granulés Plàstics Industrials
GPML	Global Partnership on Marine Litter
GPP	Green Public Procurement
GSRT	General Secretariat for Research and Technology
HCMR	Hellenic Centre for Marine Research
HELCOM	Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission
HUF	Hungarian Forint
IBP	Impuesto sobre las Bolsas de Plástico de un solo uso
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPMA	Instituições Portuguesas do Ambiente
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature

JPI Oceans	Joint Programming Initiative Productive and Healthy Seas and Oceans
JRC	Joint Research Centre
KTM	Key Type of Measures
KVNR	Royal Association of Netherlands Shipowners
MAGRAMA	Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
Ministry of I&E	Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment
ML	Marine Litter
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
NI	North Ireland
OAPN	Organismo Autónomo Parques Nacionales
OJ	Official Journal
OSPAR	The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
PEMAR	Plan Estatal Marco de Gestión de Residuos
PERSU	Strategic Plan for Solid Municipal Waste
PET	Polyethylene Terephthalate
PHC	Planes Hidrológicos de Cuenca
PNPD	Programme National de Prévention des Déchets
PNUE	Programme des Nations unies pour l'environnement
POB	Programme Opérationnel National
PoM	Programme of Measures
PON	Programme Opérationnel Belge (secteur de la pêche)
RAEE	Residuos de Aparatos Eléctricos y Electrónicos
RAP ML	Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter
RDPH	Reglamento del Dominio Público Hidráulico
SAC	Sanction Administrative Communale
SDDR	Sistema de Depósito, Devolución y Retorno
SIG	Sistemas Integrados de Gestión
SwAM	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
TGR	Waste Management Tax, Waste Management Tax
TSFS	Transport Agency's Regulations
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNEA	UN Environment Assembly
UN Environment	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
VANG	Waste to Raw Material
VLIZ	Flanders Marine Institute
VOMS	Association of Environmental Services Enterprises for Shipping
WFD	Waste Framework Directive

Introduction

Marine litter has been increasingly recognized as an emerging global issue¹, and the effects of plastic waste are particularly devastating in the marine environment. Marine species and sea birds often ingest plastic –by 2050, an estimated 99% of sea birds will have ingested plastic²– and can become entangled in plastic waste items. Plastic is also attracting chemicals and toxic substances that have a negative impact on marine life. Furthermore, plastic does not biodegrade once in the ocean but instead breaks down into microplastics that are now found in most marine waters globally. It is possible to find micro-plastics in marine products for human consumption, such as sea salt³. The importance of the issue of marine plastic litter is overwhelming. There are, however, still important gaps in knowledge, especially about the global releases of microplastics – although recent reports such as the IUCN study “Primary microplastics in the oceans⁴” are helping to address this⁵.

There are already some policy responses to this crucial environmental challenge, including at the global level through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 14), UN Environment’s (through e.g. the #CleanSeas campaign) and the recent discussions on a potential future international legal instrument to tackle the issue⁶.

In the European Union, the issue of marine litter is also starting to be addressed. On the one hand, in the context of the work on the circular economy, especially through the upcoming EU Strategy on Plastics; and on the other hand, through the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, which includes marine litter as one of the criteria for achieving Good Environmental Status of the European marine environment.

In an effort to contribute to the debate, the IUCN European Regional office is aiming in the coming years to help close the gap in knowledge and inform and support decision makers in the EU⁷ about how they can make more effective policies, also with the support of IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme (GMPP) research projects. The IUCN pointed out in 2014 that “there is (...) a distinct lack of specific legislation on marine debris and this lies in the fact that it is considered either directly or indirectly through solid waste management legislation⁸”; however, this situation is quickly evolving, as the issue has become more prominent on the policy agenda. In the abovementioned IUCN report⁹ on the sources of primary microplastics in the ocean, it is recognized that “closing the plastic tap will require (...) policy solutions considering plastics and products over their whole lifecycle to reduce plastic losses during production, use, maintenance or end of life of products and releases to the world ocean” (IUCN, 2017).

The aim of this report is to provide an overview of national legal instruments in all European Union Member States related to protection of the marine environment from plastic pollution. However, it is important to note that this report does not claim to give a comprehensive overview of all EU Member States’ existing national policies related to marine litter¹⁰. The report is based on information collected from EU Member States on existing policies directly tackling marine litter at national level. The IUCN European Regional Of-

- 1 UNEP, 2016. Marine plastic debris and microplastics – Global lessons and research to inspire action and guide policy change. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi. <http://drustage.unep.org/about/partnerships/marine-plastic-debris-and-microplasticsglobal-lessons-and-research-inspire-action-and-guide-policy>
- 2 Wilcox C et al, 2015. Threat of plastic pollution to seabirds is global, pervasive, and increasing. <http://www.pnas.org/content/112/38/11899.abstract>. See also: <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/11/why-do-seabirds-eat-plastic-they-think-it-smells-tasty>
- 3 See, e.g.:
Yang, D. et al, 2015. Microplastic Pollution in Table Salts from China (<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.est.5b03163?source=cen&>)
Karami, A. et al, 2017. The presence of microplastics in commercial salts from different countries. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28383020>)
- 4 IUCN, 2017. Primary microplastics in the ocean: a global evaluation of sources. <https://www.iucn.org/news/secretariat/201702/invisible-plastic-particles-textiles-and-tyres-major-source-ocean-pollution---iucn-study>
- 5 See also: Eunomia, 2016. Plastics in the marine environment. <http://www.eunomia.co.uk/reports-tools/plastics-in-the-marine-environment/>
- 6 Simon, Nils und Maro Luisa Schulte 2017. Stopping Global Plastic Pollution: The Case for an International Convention. Berlin: Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung. <https://www.adelphi.de/en/publication/stopping-global-plastic-pollution-case-international-convention>

- 7 IUCN 2016: IUCN European Programme 2017-2020. <https://www.iucn.org/regions/europe/about/iucn-european-work-programme-2017-2020-0>
- 8 IUCN 2014, Plastic Debris in the Oceans. <https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2014-067.pdf>
- 9 IUCN 2017, Primary Microplastics in the ocean. <https://www.iucn.org/news/secretariat/201702/invisible-plastic-particles-textiles-and-tyres-major-source-ocean-pollution---iucn-study>
- 10 See Annex I for more details on the methodology used for the collection of the information.

Office in Brussels collected this data mainly during the first half of 2017, with the support of the IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme¹¹. It is also important to highlight the related efforts to tackle marine litter at regional level through the regional Seas Conventions (HELCOM, OSPAR, Barcelona Convention and Black Sea Convention), as also noted in information collected for this report. With this paper, the IUCN European Regional Office therefore seeks to contribute to the policy debate by looking at existing policies targeting marine litter or plastic marine litter. The aim of the study is to inform key EU decision makers on the policies that are in place in the Member States, aiming to support upcoming European policy efforts such as the EU Strategy on Plastics, but also other future efforts to tackle this global environmental challenge.

¹¹ Idem previous footnote.

International and European policy context

The environmental challenge of marine plastic litter has increasingly been taken up by policymakers at the highest levels:

- In June 2012, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) was launched at Rio + 20 in Brazil –in the framework of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)– which aims to assess emerging issues related to the fate and potential influence of marine litter, including (micro)plastics and their impact on the food web and on biodiversity¹².
- The Sustainable Development Goals, Target 14.1, aims to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds¹³.
- In 2015, the G7 Summit adopted an Action Plan to combat marine litter¹⁴.
- In May 2016, the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted a resolution on Marine plastic litter and microplastic, encouraging and inviting to action from relevant actors¹⁵.
- In June 2017, the G20 adopted an action plan to address the problem of marine litter¹⁶.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has focused its attention on this issue recently, for example publishing relevant reports¹⁷; and other international policy processes are also playing a role in reducing the impact of marine plastic litter in the environment, such as the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)¹⁸. Finally, there is also an ongoing debate about potentially creating a new international legal instrument for plastic pollution¹⁹.

At European level, the Regional Seas Conventions have also been very active on the issue of marine plastic litter. In fact, cooperation at regional level is considered a policy pillar with regards to marine protection for a number of countries, as we observed during the collection of information for this report. Following are some highlights of this activity at regional level:

- HELCOM (Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission) has developed a regional action plan for the Baltic Sea on marine litter, adopted in 2015, with the aim of achieving a significant reduction of marine litter by 2025 and to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment²⁰.
- OSPAR (Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic), “in 2014 agreed to develop a Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter, along with an implementation plan, in order to achieve its objective to significantly reduce amounts of marine litter”. This plan will be implemented over the period 2014-2021²¹.
- UN Environment’s Mediterranean Action Plan has a legally binding Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management (Decision IG.21/7), which is now being implemented²².
- The Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution has a Protocol on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Black Sea from Land-Based Sources and Activities²³.

Other initiatives have been created at the regional level on addressing the environmental effects of plastic pollution, such as the Nordic programme to reduce the environmental impact of plastics that was set up by

12 <https://www.unep.org/gpa/what-we-do/global-partnership-marine-litter>

13 “By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution” - <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg14>

14 http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/descriptor-10/pdf/g7_abschluss_annex_eng_en.pdf

15 <http://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/13444>

16 https://www.g20.org/Content/EN/Artikel/2017/06_en/2017-06-01-meeresmuell_en.html

17 More recent report: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55724#.WZMW2K3DI6U>, and the older report: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-67-en.pdf>

18 <http://www.imo.org/en/ourwork/environment/pollutionprevention/garbage/pages/default.aspx>

19 See footnote 4.

20 <http://www.helcom.fi/Lists/Publications/Regional%20Action%20Plan%20for%20Marine%20Litter.pdf>

21 <https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/eiha/marine-litter>

22 See the Decision at: <https://wedocs.unep.org/rest/bitstreams/8222/retrieve>. Some recent evidence has shown the relevance of the environmental impacts of plastics in the Mediterranean marine environment, see e.g. from UNEP: <https://wedocs.unep.org/rest/bitstreams/9739/retrieve>; and from the EC: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/extent_of_plastics_in_the_mediterranean_sea_a_growing_problem_435na5_en.pdf

23 Including Black Sea Commission: http://www.blacksea-commission.org/_od_LBSAProtocol.asp

the Nordic Council of Ministers for the Environment in May 2017, which will be active in 2017-2018²⁴.

countries such as Austria, Luxembourg, Hungary and Slovakia, do not have a Programme of Measures²⁹.

There have also been a number of policy responses at the EU level. The European Commission (EC) adopted an EU Action Plan for Circular Economy in December 2015²⁵, and to address the challenges posed by plastics, the Annex of this Action Plan foresees the preparation of a Strategy on Plastics by 2017. Following the setting of the target on marine pollution (including marine litter) within the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals²⁶, and the European Commission proposed aspirational goal of "reducing marine litter by 30% by 2020 for the ten most common types of litter found on beaches, as well as for the fishing gear found at sea"²⁷, the European Strategy on Plastics will also take action to fulfill the objective of significantly reducing marine litter. Also in this context, the EU Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste aims to harmonize national measures concerning management of packaging and packaging waste to prevent or reduce its impact on the environment, and its amendment in 2015 (2015/720) includes measures on reducing the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags²⁸.

Also at EU level, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) has the objective of achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) of the EU's marine areas by 2020. Annex I of the MSFD provides 11 qualitative descriptors for determining whether an area has GES. Descriptor 10 is focused on marine litter, with an area having to meet the criteria that "properties and quantities of marine litter do not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment" for it to be considered as having GES (MSFD). According to article 26 of the Directive, Member States without marine waters have obviously more limited obligations; in this respect,

24 <http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:norden.org:diva-4828>

25 See EC Action Plan for Circular Economy at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/>

26 See information on the relevant marine SDG at: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/oceans/>

27 EC, 2014; "Towards a circular economy: A zero waste programme for Europe". <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52014DC0398>

28 In particular, "the measures taken by Member States shall include either or both of the following:
 "(a) the adoption of measures ensuring that the annual consumption level does not exceed 90 lightweight plastic carrier bags per person by 31 December 2019 and 40 lightweight plastic carrier bags per person by 31 December 2025, or equivalent targets set in weight. Very lightweight plastic carrier bags may be excluded from national consumption objectives;
 (b) the adoption of instruments ensuring that, by 31 December 2018, lightweight plastic carrier bags are not provided free of charge at the point of sale of goods or products, unless equally effective instruments are implemented. Very lightweight plastic carrier bags may be excluded from those measures."
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32015L0720>

29 See the full text of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008L0056>

Results

This chapter summarizes the information collected from the EU Member States. The information has been organized into four subchapters, for the sake of clarity:

1. Targets and strategies
2. Policies tackling plastic production and use impacting the oceans
3. Policies tackling (plastic) waste disposal entering the oceans
4. Policies tackling marine plastic waste already in the oceans

1. Targets and Strategies

A majority of the targets related to marine litter mentioned in the country reports were referred to in the context of the implementation of the EU MSFD, as each Member State having marine waters has to elaborate a Programme of Measures (PoM). The MSFD is translated into national legislation using instruments such as, for example, a National Marine Strategy, usually considering a timeframe until 2020. However, not all the EU countries have developed and implemented such national strategies, and some of them are now in the process of developing them, for example Romania.

Some countries have **general targets aiming at reducing the amount of marine litter** that is threatening marine life on their shores and at sea. This is the case for Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands (for beach litter), Slovenia (prevention of litter input into the sea), Spain and the United Kingdom. Belgium also has targets at the sub-national level, with the Flemish region setting a target to reduce the leakage of litter into the marine environment by 75% by 2025. Lithuania, Germany and the United Kingdom have an overall general target for marine litter as well as more specific sub-targets. The Netherlands, Germany and Italy have a target on specifically reducing the quantity of litter in marine organisms. Finland and Romania have planned to set targets and measures for reducing marine litter.

Some countries have also included **more specific targets** in their PoM. For instance, Cyprus is aiming to reduce plastic in the oceans using as an indicator the mortality of loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) due to entanglement and impedance by marine litter, and subsequent stranding. Belgium is aiming to reduce

and eliminate the presence of plastic in the stomach of northern fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*). Lithuania has quantitative targets related to marine litter, e.g. to have the trend of the annual average volume of litter deposited on the sea-floor to remain stable compared to the initial quantity, which is 1.3 units/ha. Croatia has targets to develop actions for better waste management and to develop indicators for monitoring trends and amounts of marine litter and microplastics in the water column but also in the stomach of marine organisms. Interestingly, Croatia is also aiming to collect marine litter in the sea by diving action and trawling. Italy has a specific target to reduce the knowledge gaps on the state and impacts of marine litter by increasing the number of survey programmes. Malta has a similar target and will undertake efforts to improve current levels of knowledge on marine litter in the country.

Interestingly, certain countries have indicated they have or will develop **Action Plans or Strategies specifically for Marine Litter**. In the United Kingdom, Scotland and Northern Ireland both have a Marine Litter Strategy. England has a national Litter Strategy in which marine litter is included. Estonia is committed to develop an action plan for managing marine litter in harbours specifically as well as at municipal level. Cyprus has mentioned a National Action Plan on marine litter as an existing measure (within their PoM) and Croatia has planned to develop a National Marine Litter management plan. Slovenia has also indicated it plans to implement the regional action plan for marine litter in the Mediterranean. In the Flemish region of Belgium, a regional (sub-national) action plan is currently being drafted, which includes a set of measures for the short, medium and long term.

Similarly, in order to achieve the targets established under the MSFD, the PoM also includes **measures related to the issue of marine litter generally**. Indeed, among other elements, Bulgaria has indicated one new legislative measure, which is to mainstream marine litter into existing legislation. Poland has also mentioned in its PoM the broadly defined measure to increase the effectiveness of the fight against pollution at sea. There are also measures which are not necessarily legislative or policy-driven, but rather information-based (such as research or awareness raising) related to marine litter in general as well. Estonia and Italy, for instance, have a broad measure to raise environmental awareness regarding marine litter generally and hence curb the amount of plastic packages from entering the sea. Ireland has also indicated that the country will continue efforts to improve business attitudes and behaviours around marine and coastal litter as well as maintain sea users' awareness of waste issues and encourage compliance with existing rules. Furthermore, both within and outside the context of the MSFD, countries such as Cyprus, France, the Netherlands and Sweden have also stressed their engagement in promoting awareness amongst the general public on the importance of tackling marine litter, with specific activities for schools and fishermen. Finally, Latvia has defined five measures for descriptor D10 in the PoM; in addition, Latvia will use marine litter on beaches as an indicator until 2030.

These are also relevant **voluntary commitments** made at the UN Ocean Conference in New York in June 2017 where, for example, Belgium made the commitment to adopt a national action plan on marine litter and the United Kingdom promised to adopt a National Litter Strategy. Estonia has committed to build a marine litter action plan for ports and harbours in line with the Estonian PoM. Estonia also declared it would launch a public awareness and information campaign on marine litter and on prevention of plastics in the sea. Germany promised to implement a ten-point Plan of Action for Marine Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries within German Development Cooperation, which has a field of actions on the reduction of land-based marine littering. Interestingly, Denmark pledged to reduce plastic marine debris in Indonesia and has allocated 3 million DKK for financing an information campaign on reducing marine litter on beaches. Finally, Portugal made a commitment to reduce marine pollution through the development of technological platforms and tools that promote the circular economy of the sea. During this global conference on the oceans in New York, Belgium made up to 11 commitments related to marine plastic litter. The country that made the second highest number of commitments related to marine litter at the UN Ocean Conference was

Sweden with five commitments followed by Estonia and the United Kingdom with four.

Additionally, it is important to note that the majority of countries are parties to the Regional Seas Conventions (OSPAR, HELCOM, Barcelona Convention), as part of which, as mentioned earlier, Contracting Parties need to develop and implement at national level the **Regional Marine Litter Action Plans** of the different Regional Seas Conventions existing for EU relevant marine waters. For instance, Bulgaria, Denmark³⁰, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom have mentioned in their PoM their commitment to develop and/or implement Regional Marine Litter Action Plans at national level. Portugal, within the OSPAR Convention, has developed a marine litter monitoring programme for nine beaches. Also, Germany has established a National Round Table on Marine Litter in 2016 in order to facilitate implementation of the MSFD at national level as well as the implementation of the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan. Portugal made a commitment at the UN Ocean Conference in New York to work at the regional level, within the OSPAR Convention, to reduce marine litter in the Atlantic but has not mentioned an action plan on marine litter. Belgium and Luxembourg pointed out in their country reports that they have implemented the OSPAR recommendations in their respective countries. Greece and Malta indicated they had implemented the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution as a legal instrument to tackle marine litter, including plastic. Additionally, Estonia mentioned in its country report the implementation of HELCOM recommendations 36/1 on Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP ML) but also on recommendations 29/2 on Marine litter within the Baltic Sea region.

Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia, being landlocked countries, have not tackled this issue specifically. However, Austria and Luxembourg have shown political will to be part of the effort to reduce the amount of marine litter. For example, The Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water (BMLFUW) supports national anti-littering and awareness raising initiatives and Luxembourg is the only EU Member State without a coastline that is a Contracting Party to the OSPAR Commission. Hungary and Austria indirectly contribute to the reduction of marine litter through their participation in international river basin cooperation, such as for the Danube River.

30 Denmark's Marine Strategy indicates that the country has adopted regional action plans for marine litter in both OSPAR and HELCOM Conventions in order to reduce marine litter.

2. Policies tackling plastic production and use impacting the oceans

This chapter is about policies to tackle the production and use of plastic that can enter the marine environment, pollute the oceans and harm marine life. Most information collected in this chapter refers to bans or taxes on plastic items in most cases. The EU Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste (which aims to harmonize national measures concerning management of packaging and packaging waste to prevent or reduce their impact in the environment), and its amendment in 2015 (2015/720), which refers to the reduction of the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags³¹, are very relevant in this context.

A significant number of measures mentioned in the national reports are related to the use of plastic carrier bags, one of the plastic items most frequently found in the oceans³². Some countries have indicated they have taken efforts towards the **reduction of plastic bag use**. For example, the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW), together with major trade companies and some NGOs has adopted a voluntary agreement on the reduction of carrier bags. This initiative, called “Farewell Plastic Carrier Bag”, aims to reduce the number of plastic bags in Austria by 50% to a maximum of 25 pieces per head per year by 2019. Similarly, Finland has a Plastic Carrier Bag Agreement that was concluded by the Ministry of Environment and the Federation of Finnish Commerce to reduce the consumption of plastic carrier bags. Finally, Luxembourg discourages also the use of disposable plastic bags and encourages consumers to use reusable bags enabling the country to reduce consumption of plastic bags through a law on packaging and packaging waste that sets targets on reduction of plastic bags use and the end of free provision of plastic bags by 2018. Additionally, Spain also mentioned the existence of a plan for a Royal Decree on the reduction of

the use of plastic bags in 2016. Sub-national measures in Spain also exist, e.g. in Andalusia there is a tax on the supply of single-use plastic bags since 2011 and in Catalonia the commercial sector has the obligation to charge customers for single-use plastic bags as of January 2016. In the Walloon region of Belgium, single-use plastic bags are prohibited as of December 2016.

At national level, certain countries have passed among other measures **a tax or fee on plastic bags** such as Belgium (in 2007), Denmark (in 1994), Hungary (in 2011), Ireland (in 2001), Malta (in 2009), Portugal (in 2015) and the United Kingdom, where England introduced a five pound sterling plastic bag charge in 2016, and in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, who had introduced plastic bag charges previously. Belgium passed a related tax in 2007 along with a tax on plastic films (like dry cleaning bags), aluminum foil, and disposable cutlery.

According to a recent report by Surfrider Foundation Europe³³, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden have also adopted a tax or fee. This report also mentions a successful German voluntary agreement to impose tax on plastic bags, as well as Poland's intention to impose a tax by 2019. Additionally, in the Brussels region in Belgium single use plastic bags (non reusable bags) handed out at the cash register are prohibited as of September 2017, and all other plastic bags for groceries are set to be prohibited by September 2018. Greece plans to implement a tax on plastic bags during the 1st semester of 2018, which will after be re-examined. In addition, the Greek islands of Alonisos and Sifnos have imposed a tax on plastic in bags³⁴.

Like Brussels, some countries have adopted **a ban on plastic bags**. For example, France prohibited packaging and oxo-fragmentable bags in August 2015, ended the supply of single-use plastic bags as of July 2016 and ended the provision of bags intended for the packaging of goods from January 2017. In the Czech Republic, there is also a provision in the Act on Packaging which prohibits the free supply of plastic bags. Italy has banned the distribution of lightweight

31 In particular, “the measures taken by Member States shall include either or both of the following:
“(a) the adoption of measures ensuring that the annual consumption level does not exceed 90 lightweight plastic carrier bags per person by 31 December 2019 and 40 lightweight plastic carrier bags per person by 31 December 2025, or equivalent targets set in weight. Very lightweight plastic carrier bags may be excluded from national consumption objectives;
(b) the adoption of instruments ensuring that, by 31 December 2018, lightweight plastic carrier bags are not provided free of charge at the point of sale of goods or products, unless equally effective instruments are implemented. Very lightweight plastic carrier bags may be excluded from those measures.” <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32015L0720>

32 IUCN 2014, Plastic Debris in the Oceans. <https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2014-067.pdf>

33 Surfrider Foundation Europe, 2017: ENOUGH EXCUSES: Time for Europe to act against plastic bag pollution. <https://www.surfrider.eu/en/ban-the-bag/>

34 Idem

plastic bags that are not from biodegradable sources since 2014. The Netherlands has established a ban on providing carrier bags for free since 2016. Finally, in Slovenia a draft decree on plastic bag use is currently undergoing public consultation.

France made a commitment, at the UN Ocean Conference in New York in June 2017, to reinforce a global coalition (with UN Environment) on marine litter, of which the Italian and Swedish governments are also partners. This coalition aims at promoting in particular the elimination of single-use plastic bags in all countries. The members of the coalition commit to promote, in particular the elimination of these plastic bags, in a consistent manner with existing international instruments and policies.

From a plastic production and use perspective, **policies on microbeads and microplastics in cosmetics** have been highlighted in a certain number of countries. In Italy, a law demanding a complete ban on the use of microplastics in cosmetic products by 2019 has been discussed and approved by the Italian Parliament. France intends to end as of January 2018 the placing on the market of cosmetics for exfoliation containing plastic particles. The Netherlands has mentioned in its PoM under the MSFD a voluntary measure aimed at the reduction of microplastic emissions from cosmetic products. The Danish Marine Strategy mentions that, through the Finance Act, Denmark has allocated funding to study the sources, scope and impacts of microplastics coming from cosmetic products. Austria has voluntary market-based instruments to help citizens make informed choices, such as the Austrian Ecolabel, which cosmetic products are awarded if they do not contain microplastics. Germany has also initiated a dialogue in 2014 with the cosmetic industry promoting a voluntary phasing out of the use of microbeads in rinse-off products.

Governments also made a certain number of voluntary commitments during the UN Ocean Conference in New York related to the use of microplastics in cosmetic products. For instance, Sweden, France, Finland, Ireland and Luxembourg committed to ban the placing on the market of rinse-off cosmetic products that contains plastic microbeads by June 2020. Additionally, Ireland has committed to ban microbeads in cosmetics and other household products by January 2018. Belgium has promised to prepare a sectoral agreement on the elimination of microplastics in cosmetics. The UK has also proposed a ban on microbeads in cosmetics and personal care products.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that Austria's 'Zero Pellet Loss' initiative with the Technical Association of the Austrian Chemical Industry, dating from spring 2015, comprises a ten-point plan to reduce the discharge of plastic granules into the environment. Germany has included in its PoM three measures on reducing the environmental impact and emissions of primary microplastic particles to be implemented that aim "to identify items of particular concern with regard to risks to the marine environment in the German parts of the North and Baltic Seas by assessing the findings of beach litter monitoring, contents of fulmar stomachs". Finally, it is interesting to point out that Belgium published a manual in 2015 aimed at helping different industry sectors to avoid emissions of microplastics into the environment.

Considering **other plastic items**, France has also planned, in addition to policies on plastic bags and microplastics in cosmetic products, to limit the availability of disposable plastic cups, glasses and plates (unless they are compostable in domestic compost and constitute entirely or partly biosourced materials) and to end the placing on the market of plastic cotton swabs made for household use by January 2020. Denmark's Marine Strategy highlights the introduction of **deposits on plastic bottles** as legislation it has enacted tackling marine litter. Deposit systems are present in countries such as Spain, the Netherlands, Sweden (for plastic bottles and metal cans) and Lithuania (for plastic bottles).

Considering a more general perspective on plastic production and use potentially impacting the oceans, some countries have pointed to policies related to packaging as a whole, and hence which include plastic packaging. For example, some countries, such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, Estonia, the Netherlands, Malta and Poland, have regulations on **Packaging and Waste Packaging** that set general requirements for the packaging produced and placed on the market and for the collection, recycling, recovery and disposal of the packaging waste in order to reduce its harmful impact on the environment. Additionally, Greece has, among other legal instruments, a National Strategic Plan for Waste Prevention. The Netherlands has a Dutch Framework Agreement with manufacturers to reduce and to recycle packaging for the period 2013-2022.

Ireland is implementing the Producer Responsibility Initiative to increase the recycling of farm plastic waste. Ireland's waste management policy document "A Resource Opportunity" also explains that principal producer responsibility initiatives have been introduced for

waste electrical and electronic equipment, batteries, packaging, end-of-life vehicles and tyres. Other countries such as Spain, the Netherlands, Sweden and the

United Kingdom have implemented regulations on Producer Responsibility for products as they become waste as well as for packaging, including plastic.

3. Policies tackling (plastic) waste disposal entering the oceans

When collecting information on policies for tackling waste disposal or more specifically plastic waste disposal, it is important to note that there is a distinction to be made between disposal and management of waste coming from land and waste coming from **sea-based sources** (ships and fishing vessels). For a majority of EU Member States, the data collected was focused mainly on policies related to the control and prevention of marine pollution from sea-based sources.

Several countries have indicated the existence of a **“No-Special-Fee” system** or “Indirect fee” system for ships to be able to deposit their waste in ports without having to pay an extra fee. Indeed, countries such as Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark and Lithuania have reported such instruments. The Flemish region of Belgium has also installed this incentive-based system in all its ports. Poland has reported the introduction of the “No-Special-Fee” system as a new measure under the MSFD, while Slovenia has also planned to study the possibility of introducing such a system.

Similarly, some countries have highlighted their implementation of the **MARPOL Convention 73/78**, and especially **Annex V** related to the control and prevention of pollution from garbage, meaning pollution from solid waste, including plastic waste. Countries such as Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom have reported the MARPOL Annex V regulation as a relevant legal instrument for preventing plastic waste from entering the marine environment.

More generally, several countries have listed legal measures that are tackling **waste disposal from ships or sea-based sources** without specifically mentioning the MARPOL Convention. For instance, Belgium and Italy have planned general measures under the MSFD regarding this issue, including research and improvement of the delivery and management of waste from fishing vessels and in ports and harbours, and research on alternatives to dolly rope for Belgium only. Sweden has named 2 regulations in general

terms with measures for addressing ship-source pollution, including plastic waste. Bulgaria emphasized in its PoM control collection activities and waste management of ships as well as the implementation of good practices. In the Dutch PoM, the Netherlands has a mutual agreement under private law on ship generated waste, of which the objective is to close the maritime waste cycle through waste prevention during provisioning, further optimisation of supervision, optimisation of waste delivery in seaports and recycling of plastic maritime waste ashore. Austria referred to its Waste Disposal Ordinance that aims to reduce the discharges of ship-generated waste and cargo residues into the sea, especially illegal discharges. Germany specified a ban on dumping waste in the high seas as one of its existing measures under the MSFD. Denmark and Lithuania also pointed out that ships at national ports have to report and submit their waste. Additionally, Lithuania has indicated that, in its Law on Protection of the Marine Environment, all ships registered under the Lithuanian flag shall not dispose or incinerate waste in the Baltic Sea. Malta and the United Kingdom have referred to their Merchant Shipping Regulations, which include measures for preventing pollution from garbage coming from ships.

Without referring to terms such as ships or ports, Denmark has established a ban in the Marine Environment Act against disposing of litter in Danish marine areas according to its PoM under the MSFD. Croatia has also relevant regulations regarding dumping within special protected areas.

Although they are EU level regulations, some countries have highlighted the application at national level of the EU Directive 2000/59/EC on port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues. Like Austria, countries such as Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Romania and Slovakia have indicated implementation of the Directive. In its PoM under the MSFD, Poland has reported planned measures to develop and supervise port reception facilities for waste and cargo residues. The Flemish region of Belgium has also planned to improve the availability and use of port reception facilities for waste from commercial

shipping, fishing vessels, recreational craft, aquaculture and offshore activities.

Similarly, Greece and Ireland cite the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC as a legislation which can help to addressing pollution from surface water runoff. Considering the fisheries sector, Denmark states in its PoM that all fishing gear should be reported if lost. Greece has indicated the Common Fisheries Policy as a regulation that reduces marine litter from sources such as fishing gear. Poland is planning to tackle ghost nets in its PoM by marking fishing gear. Slovenia and Italy point out that they have planned to establish a legal framework for the implementation of a system for collecting waste fishing gear and collecting incidental catch waste. The Netherlands also has a Green Deal specifically with the fishing industry that tackles the main waste streams from fishing, including operational ship waste (nets, ropes, dolly rope) and domestic waste. Slovenia has specified the preparation of a sustainable waste management plan for mariculture as a new national measure under the MSFD. It is interesting to note that the Flemish region of Belgium has stressed that the Flemish Research Institute for Agricultural, Fisheries and Food has conducted substantial research regarding the impact of fisheries on marine litter and the impact of marine litter on fisheries, on waste management options for dolly rope and fishing nets, and on the possibilities to integrate waste management concerns into a sustainability label for the fishing sector.

Regarding **land-based sources** of waste, some countries have indicated policies related to landfills. It is interesting to note that these policies have an impact on management at municipal level as they tackle the landfilling system. For example, Bulgaria has regulations regarding the closure and rehabilitation of landfills, regarding the removal of illegal landfills and regarding waste management in fishing villages. The Czech Republic has cited a provision which sets sanctions on illegal landfills and dumping (outside designated areas). The Netherlands has listed also a landfill ban. Spain mentions having a Royal Decree regulating the disposal of waste by landfill with requirements and calls for closure of landfills that do not meet these requirements. France has specified that the Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition is carrying out studies on the reduction and prevention on littering on public roads and the natural environment as well as on leakage of plastic waste from waste transportation and landfills.

Overall, a number of countries list general national **waste legislation** or plans in which plastic is taken into account, such as Croatia (in its waste manage-

ment plan), Greece, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Finland (in the National Waste Plan, Waste Act and Waste Decree), Ireland (in its site waste management plan), Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Latvia (in their National Waste Management Plan), Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain (in their waste prevention programmes and State Waste Management Framework Plan) and the United Kingdom with waste regulations for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Croatia has specified that in its Act on Sustainable Waste Management, marine waste is defined as a special waste stream category and that it has set an obligation to prepare a rulebook for marine litter management. In Malta's Waste Management Plan, there is a chapter on marine waste and waste disposal as well as a target mentioning plastic. The Czech Republic has an Act on integrated pollution prevention and control that includes the issue of plastic materials. Sweden mentions in its PoM that the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency is to conduct strategic work by including marine litter in relevant waste management plans and programmes including the municipal waste plans. Within the UK, the Welsh Government has both a strategy for tackling fly-tipping and an overarching waste strategy that includes plastic waste. Additionally, Portugal has included a legal framework for packaging waste where it establishes Extended Producer Responsibility and goals for recycling. Portugal has also established a Strategic Plan for Solid Municipal Waste, PERSU 2020.

A number of countries also state the national implementation of certain regional and international conventions as legal instruments for reducing marine litter from sea-based sources. For instance, Romania mentions the Protocol on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Black Sea from Land-Based Sources and Activities, which forms part of the Bucharest Convention. Finland and Malta cite the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, and Protocol (London Convention), stating that disposal of waste at sea is regulated nationally through this Convention.

Finally, Greece emphasised interestingly that, due to the importance of protecting and conserving high quality bathing waters in Greece, they have implemented concrete bathing waters monitoring programmes under a Joint Ministerial Decision on bathing waters.

4. Policies tackling marine plastic waste already in the oceans

Policies or measures that are aimed at reducing the amount of litter already present in the marine environment tend to involve research and monitoring initiatives as well as clean-up activities.

Some countries have highlighted their implementation of **Fishing for Litter**, a scheme that is mainly promoted by the OSPAR Commission as a recommendation to be implemented by the Contracting Parties (however, it is also implemented elsewhere, beyond the OSPAR North Atlantic countries). The scheme was created to work with fishermen to clear the oceans of litter. As fishermen often catch litter in their nets, the concept centres on providing them with large bags to store litter on-board the ship, which they then deposit in ports and harbours. Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Ireland, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom mention such schemes as a measure to remove litter, including plastic, from the marine environment.

Several countries have cited the **collection of lost or abandoned fishing nets** and other waste from fishing in the marine environment as well as the redesign of fishing gear, including Bulgaria (as an existing measure under the MSFD), France, Finland, Slovenia, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands and Sweden.

Additionally, in France, the Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition has highlighted the issue of cigarette butts and their toxicity, stressing that studies are being undertaken on their impacts and the recyclability. In Belgium, Flanders made a commitment during the UN Ocean Conference in New York in June 2017 to reduce the presence of cigarette butts on beaches and to raise awareness about the problem. A number of countries have **research and monitoring** programmes and measures to assess the level of marine litter and the environmental status of marine waters, such as Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia. Also, the Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water (BMLFUW) supports monitoring programmes in the Danube River.

In Bulgaria and Greece, the control and **monitoring of bathing waters** can be considered an existing legal action related to the collection and monitoring of marine litter. Considering **research** initiatives, the Flemish Regional Action Plan contains measures such as encouraging research on the impact of microplastics on

human health. Lithuania has committed to conduct a study on litter pollution in the marine environment in order to determine the ways litter enters the Lithuanian part of the Baltic Sea, seeking to identify the types and amounts of litter, and to determine the damage caused to the marine ecosystem. The Dutch Government is also involved in various research studies in order to improve monitoring methods for microplastics, to develop a way of monitoring microplastics in freshwater, and to identify the possibilities for monitoring river litter. In Slovenia, the Marine Environment Management Plan includes measures to increase knowledge on the impacts of plastic and other materials on the marine environment.

Some countries also point to **beach and sea clean-up initiatives** under the MSFD, including Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Malta, the Netherlands (Green Deal for Clean Beaches), Poland and Sweden. The Flemish Regional Action Plan incorporates measures on waste from beach tourism, including awareness raising to prevent littering and supporting voluntary beach clean-ups as well as the collection of floating litter in waterways and ports. Lithuania cites municipal level legal acts focused on litter management of terrestrial coastal zones.

Contributing also to the removal of marine litter from the sea, the Province of West Flanders made an interesting commitment at the UN Ocean Conference in New York in June 2017 on guidance for sustainable coastal events at the beach. At national level, Belgium also committed to the implementation of the Hong Kong Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships.

Finally, Belgium mentions a shipwreck cleanup initiative as fishing nets and other fishing gear might get caught on these fixed underwater structures and therefore constitute an entanglement threat to marine life. The Belgian government is financing the clean-up of “West-Hinder”, a shipwreck in the Belgian part of the North Sea which has been recognised as a heritage site.

Conclusions

On the basis of this information, a number of conclusions can be drawn about policies directly tackling marine plastic litter in EU Member States, which are summarised below:

- The problem of **plastic is an international problem**, due to the various terrestrial origins of plastic and also due to its high mobility in the ocean. Therefore, marine plastic litter is a challenge for the international community as a whole, including land-locked countries, and which is better tackled jointly.
- **It is not always easy to individualise policies tackling directly marine litter, and in some cases such policies can be interrelated with others** (e.g. on waste or packaging). There is also the related challenge of collecting and grouping the information in a simple format, and this is also the reason for the four-chapter structure of this document –which also follows the structure of the national reports (Targets and Strategies; Policies tackling plastic production and use impacting the oceans; Policies tackling (plastic) waste disposal in the oceans; and Policies tackling marine plastic waste already in the oceans).
- There is a fair amount of **regional cooperation activity, in particular through the European Regional Seas Conventions, aimed at addressing marine litter**, including related Regional Action Plans (both in force or in a preparatory phase).
- There are a large number of national targets, measures and policies in place for tackling marine plastic litter, especially thanks to the activities related to the **implementation of relevant EU level legislation, in particular the MSFD**. A few countries have also developed –or are developing– national action plans to address marine litter.
- There are a **large number of national legal provisions related to single-use plastic bags**, including in relation to the implementation of the EU Directive 94/62/EC on waste management (and especially its amendment Directive 2015/720). There are also related international commitments, such as the coalition promoted by France and other EU Member States including Sweden and Italy, aiming at promoting in particular the elimination of single-use plastic bags in all participating countries. This highlights again the importance of **international coordination** and the setting of a level playing field, as well as demonstrating the **opportunities for coordinated communication**, when it comes to tackling marine plastic litter, and which could also apply to other global environmental concerns.
- There are also some policies and voluntary commitments tackling microplastics, including bans of certain products (such as some cosmetics). The analysis shows that many **countries do not currently have microplastic related policies, and not all potential sources and related issues have been considered**. This is related **at least in part to the significant knowledge gap on microplastics**.
- The **current political environment could be considered favourable to further action on marine plastic litter**, with potential for High Level support (there was, for example, a recent G20 declaration) but also for political support at the national level, where it appears that there is increased willingness recently to move ahead with policy initiatives. This also reflects the concerns of citizens, with a recent study showing that nine out of ten EU citizens are in favour of more action on tackling marine litter³⁵.
- The upcoming **EU Plastic Strategy is an opportunity to help coordinate action at EU level, set a level playing field, and define a high level of ambition for the EU on tackling marine plastic waste**. This could also be viewed as an opportunity for the EU to set an example to the rest of the world on environmental standards. Furthermore, it is an opportunity for EU countries to find a common language for national plans and activities, which would also facilitate the harmonisation and readability of results.

35 ATTITUDES OF EUROPEANS TOWARDS WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY, Flash Eurobarometer 388, 2014. http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/flash/fl_388_en.pdf

ANNEX I – Methodology

The primary method chosen for collecting data was the use of a qualitative questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed to collect information from national sources on existing targets, strategies, policies or legal provisions at national level (and ideally also at sub-national level in countries where legislative competences on this matter exist at such a level). A set of questions was created following the life stages of plastic from the production of plastic until the moment it is already in the oceans. Municipal level cases have been collected. This questionnaire was reviewed in March 2017 by several IUCN staff within the IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme and the European Regional Office, as well as by other colleagues from external institutions and organizations. The following table shows the final questions included in this questionnaire:

States. 80 answers were received to this questionnaire from 25 countries, from varied sources (including Government and Non-Governmental Organizations) and with very varied levels of detail. After this first phase of data collection, draft national reports were developed. Such draft reports used the answers from the questionnaire and other relevant online sources, including available documents from the Programmes of Measures required by the European Commission from Member States in the context of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). ECOLEX, an information service on environmental law, operated jointly by FAO, UNEP and IUCN, was also consulted in search of relevant national legislations on waste that mention plastic or are related to marine pollution. Government websites, as well as relevant other online sources, such as the UN Ocean Conference

Target	Marine litter generally	Plastic production	Plastic use	Plastic disposal into the oceans	Plastic waste in the oceans	Municipal level legislation
Is there any target at national level that specifically addresses marine litter?	Is there any legal instrument at national level that specifically addresses marine litter ?	Is there any legal instrument at national level that directly addresses plastic production impacting the oceans?	Is there any legal instrument at national level directly addressing plastic use that impacts the oceans?	Is there any legal instrument at national level that directly addresses plastic waste entering the oceans ?	Is there any legal instrument that directly addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?	Please highlight any legal instrument at municipal level that addresses marine plastic litter

Although the last question of the questionnaire is addressing municipal legislation, the municipal level goes beyond the scope of this document and was only included to provide the opportunity for respondents to add cases or situations which could be considered of relevance for the purpose of this paper. But municipal legislation related to marine litter in 28 states is very diverse and represents a level of complexity that unfortunately goes beyond the possibilities of this report. And in any case, there was no significant information collected through this question.

In early April 2017, the questionnaire was circulated to all IUCN Chairs of EU National Committees and IUCN EU national focal and contact points, who subsequently circulated it among their national networks to reach the experts working on the topic in all the EU Member

States. 80 answers were received to this questionnaire from 25 countries, from varied sources (including Government and Non-Governmental Organizations) and with very varied levels of detail. After this first phase of data collection, draft national reports were developed. Such draft reports used the answers from the questionnaire and other relevant online sources, including available documents from the Programmes of Measures required by the European Commission from Member States in the context of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). ECOLEX, an information service on environmental law, operated jointly by FAO, UNEP and IUCN, was also consulted in search of relevant national legislations on waste that mention plastic or are related to marine pollution. Government websites, as well as relevant other online sources, such as the UN Ocean Conference

voluntary commitments website, were also consulted. Keywords, such as marine plastic, plastic waste, marine pollution, were used in different combinations to identify the relevant policies from these online sources. Once these national reports were made for all 28 EU Member States (see Annex 1), these reports were sent to the respective national governments officers, either directly or through contacting IUCN EU National Committee members and EU National Focal Points, in order to verify the data.

In some cases, information was collected in French or Spanish (official languages of IUCN, together with English) –the body of the report is written entirely in English language, but the Annex also contains some pieces of text in these languages.

About the limitations of the methodology / information collected

It is important to highlight the limitations of the data collection process using a qualitative questionnaire:

- o The main challenge of this study was to collect a complete assessment of policies for every state from the relevant experts in the countries. In some cases, no answer was received to the questionnaire or to the report verification. Therefore, it is important to emphasize that the comprehensiveness cannot be fully guaranteed for all 28 EU Member States included in this report.
- o It is important to underline that only policies targeting specifically or directly at marine litter or explicitly mentioning marine litter in their texts have been considered in this study, keeping in mind that in some cases such policies are not easy to individualise.
- o Given that policies are continuously evolving, this paper can only claim to depict an overview of marine litter related policies until the time the information was collected (July 2017).
- o The language barrier was in some cases a limitation to easily accessing information on each national policy framework.
- o This document does not consider regional measures and programmes (e.g. Regional Seas Conventions, Nordic programme).
- o Finally, it should be taken into account that the level of detail in the information provided by the different respondents varies greatly and is quite contrasting from one country to the next. The national reports in the Annexes thus present a combination of answers to the questionnaire and reviews of national reports elaborated from online sources available in different languages.

For these reasons, this study cannot claim to offer a fully comprehensive overview of existing national policies in EU member States related to marine litter.

ANNEX II: EU Countries Factsheets on marine litter related policies

Austria

1. Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?

- As a land-locked country Austria does not have any laws or strategies addressing marine litter in a direct way. However, the Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water (BMLFUW) in cooperation with relevant stakeholders has established a number of initiatives focusing on the quality of rivers (in particular the river Danube but also the rivers Rhine and Elbe) which discharge into the marine environment. Examples are the “10-points programme for the quality of the Danube River” which includes a set of national and European wide measures, the initiative “Pfiat di Sackerl” (“Farewell Plastic Carrier Bag”) and the “Zero (Plastic) Pellets Loss” Initiative. The Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water (BMLFUW) also supports national anti-littering and awareness raising initiatives such as “Reinwerfen statt Wegwerfen” (www.reinwerfen.at).

2. Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?

- The mentioned initiative “Pfiat di Sackerl” (“Farewell Plastic Carrier Bag”): The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW), together with major trade companies and the NGOs Greenpeace and Global 2000, adopted a voluntary agreement on the reduction of carrier bags. This initiative aims to reduce the number of plastic bags in Austria by 50% to a maximum of 25 pieces per head per year by 2019.³⁶
- The “Zero (Plastic) Pellets Loss” initiative: In order to reduce plastic in the environment, the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water

Management, Andrä Rupprechter, sealed a ‘Zero Pellet Loss’ pact with the Technical Association of the Austrian Chemical Industry in spring 2015. The pact comprises a ten-point plan to reduce the discharge of plastic granules into the environment³⁷.

- The Austrian “Umweltförderung” provides financial support for business for the implementation of resource efficiency in general (www.bmlfuw.gv.at/umwelt/klimaschutz/ufi/ufi.html). The instrument “EMAS” helps enterprises to track their environmental and resource efficiency.
- In terms of research and development for new innovative solutions in production, support is provided for instance by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) which is the national funding agency for industrial research and development in Austria (www.ffg.at)
- The initiative “Bewusst Kaufen” (“Buy Aware”) of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water serves to increase consumers’ awareness of sustainable products and provides extensive information on conscious, sustainable consumption (www.bewusstkaufen.at).
- Voluntary market based instruments, such as the Austrian Ecolabel (www.umweltzeichen.at) and the Austrian Green Public Procurement Scheme help to make informed choices. Example: microplastics are excluded from cosmetic products awarded with the Austrian Ecolabel.

3. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?

- Waste Disposal Ordinance, 2009: The present Ordinance introduces EC regulations on the same

36 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16526>

37 http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/en/news_events_reports/news_eaa/en_news_2016/news_en_160607/

subject into Austrian legislation. The purpose is to reduce the discharges, especially illegal discharges, of ship-generated waste and cargo residues into the sea from ships using ports in the Community, by improving the availability and use of port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues, thereby enhancing the protection of the marine environment. The said Ordinance applies to Austrian sea ships.³⁸

4. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?
- The BMLFUW also supports research initiatives such as a large monitoring programme in the Danube River in 2014/2015 (http://www.umwelt-bundesamt.at/en_news150317/).

38 https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/waste-disposal-ordinance-lex-faoc039509/?q=marine+pollution&type=legislation&xcountry=Austria&xdate_min=&xdate_max=

Belgium

1. Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?
 - The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) was transposed by Belgium into the Royal Decree of June 23, 2010.³⁹ The Programme of Measures (available in French)⁴⁰ includes 4 targets related to marine litter:
 - o Tendence négative au niveau de l'évolution annuelle des quantités de déchets rejetés qui peuvent porter préjudice à la vie marine et aux habitats marins, conformément aux directives relatives au Contrôle des détritrus sur les plages (OSPAR Beach Litter Monitoring dans les milieux marins - 2010).
 - o Tendence négative au niveau de l'évolution annuelle des quantités de déchets repêchés en mer. (Recommandation OSPAR 2010/19).
 - o Réduction générale du nombre total de détritrus visibles sur les côtes d'ici 2020 (ex. sur la base d'une moyenne courant sur cinq ans).
 - o Il y a plus de 0,1 g de plastique dans l'estomac de moins de 10% des pétrels glaciaux (*Fulmarus glacialis*). (OSPAR EcoQO)
 - The Flemish region has set the target to reduce the leakage of litter into the marine environment by 75% by 2025. In order to meet this target and following a resolution adopted in the Flemish Parliament in October 2016, a regional action plan is currently being drafted providing a set of measures aiming at the short, medium and long term. These measures will address both sea and land based sources of marine litter, but will also look at measures related to the leakage into the sea through rivers and waterways, education/communication campaigns, and international cooperation. An overview of some of the measures:
 - o improved availability and use of port reception facilities for waste from commercial shipping, fishing vessels, recreational craft, aquaculture and offshore activities
 - o general waste policy and regulatory framework focusing on the prevention of litter
 - o focus on plastics and circular economy in order to close the loop of materials
 - o encourage research on the impact of microplastics on human health
 - o waste from beach tourism: awareness raising to avoid littering and supporting voluntary beach clean-ups
 - o the collection of floating litter in waterways and ports: installing litter traps and assessing optimal clean-up technology
 - o investigate the possibilities of improving sewage treatment plants to capture microplastics
 - o education: introduce the issue of marine litter in school programs
 - o communication campaigns (e.g. beach tourism, the link of land-based litter with marine litter, the possible impact of microplastics on the human food chain, impact of the fishing industry, etc.)
 - o international cooperation: assess options to help developing states through transfer of know-how and technology
 - During the UN Ocean Conference in New York (5-9 June) the Belgian Government made the following 11 commitments related to marine plastic litter⁴¹:
 - o Province of West-Flanders - No cigarette butts on the beach
 - o Province of West-Flanders - Guidance for sustainable coastal events at the beach
 - o Preparation of sectoral agreement on elimination of microplastic in cosmetic and other consumption products
 - o Revision of Belgium's marine spatial plan
 - o Federal truck awareness raising campaign on marine biodiversity
 - o Brochure on marine biodiversity in the Belgian part of the North Sea
 - o Year of the North Sea
 - o Belgium's national action plan on marine litter
 - o Belgian long term vision for the North Sea 2050
 - o New multidisciplinary research vessel

39 <https://www.health.belgium.be/en/marine-strategy-framework-directive>

40 <https://www.health.belgium.be/fr/programme-de-mesures-dcsmm-2016>

41 https://www.health.belgium.be/sites/default/files/uploads/fields/fpshealth_theme_file/ocean_conference_-_belgian_voluntary_commitments.pdf

- o Environmentally sound ship recycling: Implementation of the Hong Kong Convention and encouraging others to join
- o Government of Flanders - Flemish Action Plan on Marine Litter, providing an integrated approach, measures and targets for the tackling of marine litter from both sea and land-based sources

2. Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?

- In 2007, Belgium passed a tax on plastic bags along with a tax on plastic films (such as dry cleaning bags), aluminum foil and disposable cutlery⁴²
- Les sacs plastiques à usage unique interdits en Wallonie à partir du 1er décembre 2016. Deux dates d'entrée en vigueur sont prévues pour cette interdiction:
 - o à partir du 1er décembre 2016 pour les sacs de caisse;
 - o à partir du 1er mars 2017 pour tous les autres sacs.⁴³
- In Brussels, single use plastic bags (non reusable bags) handed out at the cash register will be prohibited starting from September 1 2017. All other plastic bags for groceries will be prohibited starting from September 1 2018. The prohibition is applicable to all shop keepers, i.e. all places where the public can buy items, independently from their size, whether they are covered by a roof, or whether they are specialized. A ministerial decree on its practical implementation will be adopted in the near future.⁴⁴
- Les autorités fédérales ont également édité un manuel destiné à différents secteurs industriels dans le but d'éviter que les micro-plastiques ne se retrouvent dans le milieu naturel. La promotion de ce manuel va débiter prochainement.⁴⁵

3. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?

- Dans le cadre du Programme de mesures pour les eaux marines belges, il y a les mesures existantes suivantes qui sont liés au problème des déchets provenant des navires et ports⁴⁶:

42 <http://www.allaboutbags.ca/aroundtheworld.html>

43 <http://gouvernement.wallonie.be/communiqu-s-de-presse-relatifs-au-gouvernement-wallon-du-jeudi-21-avril-2016>

44 <http://www.environnement.brussels/thematiques/dechets-ressources/gestion-des-dechets/regles-de-gestion-des-dechets-ce-qui-change>

45 <https://www.health.belgium.be/fr/news/des-particules-de-micro-plastiques-dans-les-sel-marin>

46 <https://www.health.belgium.be/fr/programme-de-mesures-dcsmm-2016>

- o Le contrôle des déchets marins conformément aux recommandations de l'OSPAR a été repris dans le programme de contrôle belge pour la DCSM.
- o Fishing for Litter : Soutenu par le PON et le POB Pêche et repris dans le programme de contrôle belge pour la DCSM. Dans la pratique, cela signifie que les pêcheurs doivent prendre à bord les déchets qui sont pêchés en tant que prises accessoires et les collecter dans des « big bags ». Ils peuvent ensuite remettre gratuitement les déchets dans les ports, où ils seront traités. Cela permet au Service Milieu Marin de collecter des données sur le problème.
- o Installations de réception portuaires (collecte de déchets MARPOL Annexes I et V)
- o Plans de gestion des déchets pour les ports.
- Dans le cadre du Programme de mesures pour les eaux marines belges, il y a les mesures supplémentaires suivantes qui sont liés au problème des déchets en mer, notamment provenant des navires et ports⁴⁷ (measures relating to waste from fisheries):
 - o Research and sensitization on recycling, deposit, tagging of fishing nets
 - o Sensitization on waste management in harbours for pleasure crafts
 - o Improving the delivery of waste from fishing vessels by the provision of adequate reception facilities in combination with the application of an incentive based fee system.
 - o Research and stimulation alternatives to dolly rope (bunches of polyethylene threads used to protect the cod-end of bottom trawling nets against wear and tear).
- The Flemish region has installed in all its ports an incentive based fee system for ship-generated waste. In fishing ports an indirect cost recovery system is being installed, fully implementing the polluter pays principle: fishing vessels pay a yearly waste fee, and in return they can deliver all their ships' garbage, including fishing gear, to port reception facilities without additional cost. Even though it is a voluntary system, the majority of the fishing vessels joined. The system is organized by an association of fishermen but controlled by the environmental authorities, and could be considered as one of the best practices in EU fishing ports.

47 Idem

- In addition, the Flemish Research Institute for Agricultural, Fisheries and Food has done substantial research regarding:
 - o - the impact of fisheries on marine litter and the impact of marine litter on fisheries
 - o - waste management options for dolly rope and fishing nets
 - o - possibilities to integrate waste management in a sustainability label for the fishing sector
- 4. **Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?**
- Dans le cadre du Programme de mesures pour les eaux marines belges, il y a les mesures existantes suivantes qui sont liés au problème des déchets déjà en mer⁴⁸:
- Mesures liées à la terre (sensibilisation):
 - o Actions Clean Beach (nettoyage des plages)
 - o Nettoyage mécanique des plages
 - o Amendes pour débris non ramassés (amendes SAC)
 - o Dans le cadre de la sensibilisation Fishing for Litter des étudiants de l'école Mercator 1 après-midi/an
 - o Campagnes de sensibilisation by the Flemish Public Waste Agency
 - o Plan Plages propres en cas de catastrophes
- Belgium is one of the partner countries in the Fishing for Litter project, which aims to work with fishermen to clear the North Sea of litter. Fishermen often catch litter in their nets. With the Fishing for Litter project, it is tried to be avoided that they throw this litter back into the North Sea. Fishermen are provided with big hardwearing bags to store the litter in on board the ship. The filled bags can be deposited in the participating harbours, where they will be collected and the content will be recycled. From a first analysis, more than 90% of the collected litter is plastic. This is a very concrete way to work with fishermen. Now the intention is to expand the project to other actors, such as the wind turbine managing entities.⁴⁹
- The Flanders Department of Economy, Science and Innovation (EWI) and the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ vzw) contribute, each at their level, to fostering research, awareness raising and other actions. EWI focuses on the organisation and funding of relevant research (mostly in an EU

context), whereas VLIZ instigates actions related to awareness raising, networking of scientists and support and outreach of science results, locally, regionally and beyond. These initiatives enable a better public understanding of the significance of the problem, and can also contribute to proper monitoring and well-targeted policy action. Marine litter in general (and microplastics in particular) is a topic that is high on the agenda for marine science funding in Europe. Belgium (and Flanders) fully subscribes to the initiatives of the Joint Programming Initiative Productive and Healthy Seas and Oceans (JPI Oceans). EWI has co-funded a JPI Oceans pilot action (executed by Gent University, 2012-14) and supported the organisation of a research project call on microplastics. Several Flemish research groups are actively participating in projects (EPHEMARE, PLASTOX, WEATHER-MIC mentioned below) that are executed within this JPI Oceans call. One of the overall aims of this activity is to elaborate standardized methods to quantify microplastics for routine monitoring.

48 Idem

49 <http://www.kimonederlandbelgie.org/fishing-for-litter/>

Bulgaria

1. [Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?](#)
 - The MSFD is transposed into national legislation by the Regulation on the protection of the environment in marine waters, approved by Ministerial Decree № 273 from 23.11.2010.
 - The MSFD Programme of Measures for Marine Litter in the Bulgarian Marine Strategy includes the following 2 targets that tackle the issue of marine litter⁵⁰:
 - o Decreasing trend in the amount of marine litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines.
 - o Decreasing trend in the amount of marine litter floating on the water surface, in the water column and deposited on the seafloor.
 - The MSFD Programme of Measures in the Bulgarian Marine Strategy mentions one new measure under Descriptor 10 (Marine litter) at the national level labelled under the category of “legislative” type of action⁵¹: “Mainstream marine litter into existing legislation”. In this measure’s factsheet⁵², it is stated that marine litter is not included in the national regulatory framework yet. There is also another new legislative measure, although it is labelled as “bilateral” (not national): “Development of Regional Marine litter Action Plan (joint methodology for quantifying the marine litter, identification of sources, prosecution of offenders, etc.)”
2. [Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?](#)
 - Ordinance on Packaging and Packaging Waste (2005): This Ordinance sets out requirements for the packaging placed on the market and for the collection, recycling, recovery and disposal of the packaging waste in order to reduce its harmful impact on the environment⁵³ (including plastic packaging).
3. [Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans \(waste disposal\)?](#)
 - The MSFD Programme of Measures in the Bulgarian Marine Strategy lists 10 existing measures under the MSFD key type of measure 29 (KTM 29: measures to address marine litter), which are neither necessarily coordinated at national level nor necessarily of legislative character. From these 10 measures related to marine litter, the following 8 measures address waste disposal and waste management:
 - o Closure and rehabilitation of municipal landfills (coordination at municipal level)
 - o Control the activities of collection and transportation of ship and domestic garbage from shipping, including wastewaters (coordination at regional level)
 - o Implementation of good practice concerning the processing and disposal of waste, including garbage from ships (coordination at regional level)
 - o Marine litter - Control of collecting, transporting and processing ship waste is under the competence of the Maritime administration and Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Waters (related to MARPOL 73/78)
 - o Control of preventing (solid) waste pollution from ships (related to MARPOL 73/78, Annex V for garbage)
 - o Closure of municipal landfills that do not meet legal requirements (assignment at national level)
Removal of illegal landfills causing water status deterioration (assignment at national level)
 - o Control the implementation of waste management in fishing village areas (assignment at national level)
4. [Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?](#)
 - The 2 other existing measures to address marine litter listed in the MSFD Programme of Measures of Bulgaria (see answer to previous question) tackle the collection and monitoring of waste already present in the marine environment:
 - o Control and monitoring of bathing waters as a part of coastal waters
 - o Collection of lost and abandoned fishing nets or parts of them in the marine environment by fishermen

50 <http://www.bsbd.org/uk/MarineStrategy.html>

51 http://www.bsbd.org/UserFiles/File/En/MS/New_measures.xlsx

52 http://www.bsbd.org/UserFiles/File/En/MS/Measure_factsheets.zip

53 https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/ordinance-on-packaging-and-packaging-waste-lex-faoc069022/?q=plastic&type=legislation&xcountry=Bulgaria&xdate_min=&xdate_max=

Croatia

1. [Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?](#)
 - The Regulation on development and implementation of the documents of the Marine and Coastal Management Strategy (OJ 112/14) transposes the obligations from the MSFD. The legal base for the Regulation is the Environmental Protection Act (OJ 80/13, 78/15), which in Article 56 sets the base for the elaboration of the Marine and Coastal Management Strategy.
 - There are several targets related to marine litter defined in the document “Characteristics of GES and Environmental Targets for the Marine Environment under the Sovereignty of the Republic of Croatia” (2014), which is one of the elements/documents of the Croatian Marine and Coastal Management Strategy that –as mentioned– transposes the obligations from the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and Protocol (of the Barcelona Convention) on the Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (ICZM Protocol):
 - o Reducing the total amount of visible marine litter on the shores and in the sea
 - o Development of actions for better waste management in the region (transboundary pollution)
 - o Continue developing indicators for monitoring:
 - o the quality and trends of ML at the sea bottom and the level of impact on humans and on the marine ecosystem,
 - the quality and trends of microplastics in the water column and on the coast and the level of impact on humans and on the marine ecosystem,
 - the amount of microplastics in the stomach contents of marine organisms.
 - In the framework of the MSFD implementation and the elaboration of Marine and Coastal Management Strategy, the Programme of Measures for the Protection and Management of the Marine Environment and Coastal Zone of the Republic of Croatia (Programme of Measures) includes measures related to marine litter management:
 - o Under Strategic Priority 3 (Improving the implementation of instruments for achieving/maintaining GES of marine and coastal area) and Specific Goal 3.3. (Improvement of the marine litter management system), the defined marine litter measures are:
 - Develop a National Marine Litter management plan
 - Assess the level of the harmful impacts of marine litter
 - Collection of marine litter in the sea by diving action and by trawling
2. [Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?](#)
 - The Ordinance on packaging and waste packaging (OG 88/15) sets general requirements for the production of packaging. The packaging company is obliged to produce packaging that can be reused, recovered and / or recycled in accordance with the best available technologies to minimize the adverse environmental impact of packaging and waste packaging. The packaging company and the manufacturer may only place on the market packaging which meets the essential requirements for the production and composition of the packaging and its reuse and recovery characteristics, including recycling.
3. [Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans \(waste disposal\)?](#)
 - The Act on Sustainable Waste Management (OG 94/13) defines marine litter as a special waste stream category and sets the obligation to prepare a Rule book of marine litter management.
 - Other relevant legislation is the Act on Maritime Domain and Sea Ports under jurisdiction of the Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure (Article 88, 89 and 90) and Maritime Code (Article 48, 49b,49c and 49f) regarding dumping within the specially protected areas.
 - The waste management plan of the Republic of Croatia for the period 2017-2022 sets the establishment of a marine waste management system as one of the goals that need to be met by 2022.
4. [Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?](#)
 - Legislation that indirectly deals with marine litter management and influence on marine litter prevention, collection and disposal is covered by these sectors: waste management, maritime transport, maritime domain management, fisheries, etc.

Cyprus

1. [Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?](#)
 - In the Programme of Measures (PoM) of Cyprus, under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, there are 2 targets related to marine litter, i.e. “the marine environment of Cyprus is considered to be in good environmental status if:
 - o The amount of marine litter on beaches and on the seafloors is minimized and, if possible, is effectively eliminated,
 - o Mortality of *Caretta caretta* individuals due to entanglement and impedance by marine litter, and subsequent stranding is minimized and, if possible, is effectively eliminated.”⁵⁴
 - The PoM includes one existing measure directly for Descriptor 10: Marine litter⁵⁵:
 - o National Action Plan on marine litter
2. [Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?](#)
3. [Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans \(waste disposal\)?](#)
 - Indirect Fee System for the Collection of Ship Waste in Cyprus: The Cypriot Port Authority, in accordance with National and EU legislation (ΚΔΠ. 771/2003 - 2000/59/EK) has implemented an ‘Indirect Fee System’ which means that every ship that enters Cypriot ports is charged a fee that gives it the right to dispose of its waste (solid waste, sludge (from burning of fuel) and sewage), regardless of whether or not the ship will actually dispose of any waste.⁵⁶
 - Implementation of MARPOL Annex V in Cyprus: The Department of Merchant Shipping (DMS) in Cyprus, in its capacity as the competent Cypriot authority under Regulation 8 of MARPOL Annex V (Port State control on operational requirements), performs random inspections on all ships (national and foreign) within the port areas of Cyprus, as well as inspections of Cypriot ships abroad (a
4. [Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?](#)
 - The PoM has new measures related to addressing plastic waste polluting the marine environment⁵⁸:
 - o Promote awareness through collaboration with Municipalities for cleaning activities in riverbanks, where ecologically appropriate
 - o Encouragement for and implementation of “fishing for litter”
 - o Promote awareness by informing professional and amateur fishermen about marine litter to reduce littering from fishing activities
 - o Enhance the role of the public with regard to marine litter management by promoting engagement/awareness by applying, when appropriate; adopt a beach or similar practices.

fleet of about 1000 foreign going ships) to ensure compliance with MARPOL Annex V.⁵⁷

54 [http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/dfmr/dfmr.nsf/all/DBDD640DA763DA8C42257F4100311170/\\$file/metra%20programmamos.pdf?openelement](http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/dfmr/dfmr.nsf/all/DBDD640DA763DA8C42257F4100311170/$file/metra%20programmamos.pdf?openelement)

55 Idem

56 http://www.marlisco.eu/indirect_fee_system_for_the_collection_of_ship_waste_in_Cyprus.en.html?articles=indirect-fee-system-for-the-collection-of-ship-waste-in-cyprus-cyprus

57 <http://www.marlisco.eu/bp36.en.html?articles=implementation-of-marpol-annex-v-in-cyprus-cyprus>

58 [http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/dfmr/dfmr.nsf/all/DBDD640DA763DA8C42257F4100311170/\\$file/metra%20programmamos.pdf?openelement](http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/dfmr/dfmr.nsf/all/DBDD640DA763DA8C42257F4100311170/$file/metra%20programmamos.pdf?openelement)

Czech Republic

1. Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?
2. Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?
 - In Act no. 477/2001 Coll. on Packaging and on Amendments to Certain Other Acts of the Czech Republic, there is a provision in Article 3 which prohibits the free provision of plastic bags, except for the very light ones.
3. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?
 - In Act no. 200/1990 Coll. on offenses, there is a provision in Article 47 which provides for sanctions in the case where a natural person unjustifiably establishes a landfill or places waste outside the designated areas (at municipal level).
 - Act on integrated pollution prevention and control, on the integrated pollution register and on amendment to some laws (Act on integrated prevention) (No. 76 of 2002): The purpose of this Act, in accordance with the legislation of the European Union, is to achieve a high level of protection of the environment as a whole, to provide for integrated implementation of the public administration in authorizing the operation of installations and to create and operate an integrated pollution register.⁵⁹ This Act mentions plastic materials.
4. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?

⁵⁹ https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/act-on-integrated-prevention-no-76-of-2002-lex-faoc045693/?q=plastic+pollution&type=legislation&xcountry=Czech+Republic&xdate_min=&xdate_max=

Denmark

1. Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?

- During the UN Ocean Conference in New York (5-9 June), Denmark made 2 commitments related to marine plastic litter:
 - o Reducing plastic marine debris in Indonesia with the target of, by the end 2025, reducing 70% of Indonesia's plastic debris from 2017.⁶⁰
 - o Reducing marine litter on beaches: Denmark has allocated 3 million DKK for financing an information campaign on reducing marine litter; the campaign will primarily take place in 2018. The campaign is directed towards three groups, 1) fishermen, 2) sailors and other people visiting the harbours, and 3) people visiting the beach.⁶¹
- Denmark's Marine Strategy⁶² under the EC Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) has 3 new measures under Descriptors 10: Marine litter. These are not legislative but information-based measures related to marine litter in general:
 - o Establishment of 2015 levels for marine litter
 - o Information measures in connection with marine litter
 - o Regionally coordinated knowledge gathering on marine litter
- In its Marine Strategy, it is indicated that Denmark has adopted regional action plans for marine litter in both OSPAR and HELCOM Conventions in order to reduce marine litter.

2. Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?

- Denmark's 1994 tax on plastics includes bags and all packaging materials, as well as a tax on sending waste to a landfill or incinerating it.⁶³
- There is a scheme for applying for financial help in developing new articles/production which is aimed at taking all aspects of the circular economy into consideration.

- With regard to microparticles released into the sea due to the use of plastic in cosmetics, fabrics, etc., Denmark's Marine Strategy mentions in the 2015-16 Finance Act that funding has been allocated to clarify the sources, scope and impacts of microplastics from such products, and the European cosmetics industry has voluntarily decided to phase out the use of microplastics in their products⁶⁴.

3. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?

- The Waste legislation - in Denmark, landfill accounts for only 2-4% of the total amounts of waste: the rest is either recycled or incinerated. This means that marine litter primarily comes from littering, which is forbidden by law.
- Fishing gear should be reported if lost and waste, including plastics, taken onboard a Vessel can be delivered free of charge at the harbors (included in the general harbor fee): "No-Special-Fee" system.
- Denmark's Marine Strategy lists existing measures addressed to reduce marine litter. There are legislative measures that are related to waste disposal and waste management such as:
 - o The ban in the Marine Environment Act against disposing of litter in Danish marine areas
 - o The mentioned "No-Special-Fee" system (ships that call at ports can deliver their waste without having to pay a special fee, as this fee is covered by the port charges).
 - o On behalf of the Danish EPA, the Danish Maritime Authority supervises that ships calling at Danish ports have reported their waste.
 - o The Minister for Defence (Defence Command Denmark) supervises compliance with the Marine Environment Act, including regulations pertaining to the discharge of waste from ships.

4. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?

60 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20500>

61 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19979>

62 http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/public-consultation/pdf/summary_Danish.pdf

63 UNEP, *Marine Litter Legislation: a Toolkit for Policymakers* (2016)

64 https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.cosmeticseurope.eu/download/NkZzVWxTYkpVeXZlV0hFM1RYOGhwZz09&sa=U&ved=0ahUKewjyrr3PyM_VAhVqDcAKHZzyAYQQFggRMAU&client=internal-uds-cse&usq=AFQjCNEg-MGozSveB8lSeLM3BNzFM17sVQ

- Denmark's Marine Strategy's existing measures also include (non-legislative) measures related to cleaning and monitoring. As an example, the Keep Denmark Clean Foundation/the Danish Outdoor Council and the Danish Society for Nature Conservation organize litter collection events, beach-cleaning activities, etc.

Estonia

1. Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?

- The Estonian Programme of Measures (PoM) for the EC Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) lists 3 new measures addressing marine litter⁶⁵:
 - o 1. developing an action plan for managing marine litter in harbours, including the litter related to fishing;
 - o 2. environmental awareness raising regarding marine litter and preventing plastic packages entering the sea;
 - o 3. compiling action plans at local municipality level on marine litter and implementing them to decrease the amount of marine litter.
- During the UN Ocean Conference in New York (5-9 June) Estonia made commitments corresponding to the measures planned to be implemented in the Estonian PoM regarding marine litter:
 - o Marine litter action plan for ports and harbours⁶⁶.
 - o Public awareness and information campaign on marine litter and prevention of plastics in the sea⁶⁷.
 - o Improving the stormwater discharge systems to decrease the load of nutrients, hazardous substances and litter to the sea⁶⁸.
 - o Establishing electronic notification systems for the effective use of fishing gear⁶⁹.

2. Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?

- Packaging Act: This Act provides the general requirements for packaging and the use of packaging, the measures preventing or reducing the generation of packaging and packaging waste, and the organisation of a system for reusing packaging and packaging waste. This Act covers all packaging placed on the market in the Republic of Estonia and all packaging waste (including plastic), whether it is used or released

at industrial, commercial, household, office or any other level.⁷⁰

3. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?

- At regional level, Estonia's efforts to reduce marine plastic pollution include:
 - o MARPOL 73/78 Annex V, preventing pollution by garbage from ships including plastic waste;
 - o HELCOM Recommendation 29/2 on Marine litter within the Baltic Sea region and Recommendation 36/1 on Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP ML);
- At national level, Estonia has the following regulation related to waste disposal and waste management preventing marine plastic pollution:
 - o Waste Act: This Act provides the general requirements for preventing waste generation and the health and environmental hazards arising therefrom, for organizing waste management with the objective to reduce the harmfulness and quantity of waste, and the liability for violation of the established requirements.⁷¹

4. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?

- Beach-cleaning actions are also addressed in the Estonian Marine Strategy.

65 http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/public-consultation/pdf/summary_of_the_estonian_pom.pdf

66 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18007>

67 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18013>

68 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=17677>

69 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=17650>

70 https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/packaging-act-lex-faoc098373/?q=packaging&type=legislation&xcountry=Estonia&xdate_min=&xdate_max=

71 https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/waste-act-lex-faoc067794/?q=waste+&type=legislation&xcountry=Estonia&xdate_min=&xdate_max=

Finland

1. Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?

- The Finnish marine strategy 2016–2021 and the underpinning legislation meant for implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive has established the following measure related to marine litter: “A broad-scoped general survey, setting a target and the measures for reducing littering of the marine environment”.⁷²
- Finland is part of a voluntary commitment initiated by the Swedish government at the UN Ocean Conference in New York that aims to ban the placing on the market of rinse-off cosmetic products that contain plastic micro beads intended to be used to exfoliate or cleanse the human body by June 2020.⁷³
- Finland is a contracting party of the HELCOM (Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission) that has developed a regional action plan for the Baltic Sea on marine litter, adopted in 2015, with the aim of achieving a significant reduction of marine litter by 2025 and to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment.⁷⁴
- Finland is part of the Nordic programme to reduce the environmental impact of plastic that was set up by the Nordic Council of Ministers for the Environment in May 2017. The Nordic programme will be a strategic tool for enhancing knowledge, drawing up measures and building awareness in Nordic networks during the period 2017-18.⁷⁵

2. Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?

- Green Deal agreement - Plastic Carrier Bag Agreement - was concluded by the Ministry of the Environment and the Federation of Finnish Commerce to reduce the consumption of plastic carrier bags. The issues to be included in the measures of the companies in the trade sector are at least the following: advice and information is provided to reduce the consumption of lightweight

plastic carrier bags and prevent littering; there is a price for lightweight plastic carrier bags; and very thin plastic carrier bags are no longer available at retail outlets on a self-service basis.

- Plastic production and use is expected to be dealt with in the forthcoming EU’s Plastics Strategy.

3. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?

- The Finnish marine strategy 2016–2021 mentions existing measures related to waste disposal and marine litter⁷⁶:
 - o Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Dumping of Wastes and other subjects (London Convention).
 - o The International Convention for the Prevention of Sea Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).
 - o Government Decision on packaging and packaging waste. “The primary aim is to prevent the generation of packaging waste; the other aims are to reuse packaging, and to recycle and otherwise recover packaging wastes in order to reduce their final disposal.”⁷⁷ Plastic-packaging waste is mentioned.
 - o Waste Decree (179/2012) on separate collection and waste disposal and management where plastic is mentioned.⁷⁸
 - o Waste Act (646/2011): The purpose of this Act is to prevent the hazard and harm to human health and the environment posed by waste and waste management, to reduce the amount and harmfulness of waste, to promote the sustainable use of natural resources, to ensure functioning waste management, and to prevent littering.⁷⁹
 - o National Waste Plan: The key objectives of the National Waste Plan include: preventing the generation of waste, promoting biological recovery of waste and the recycling of materials, increasing the incineration of

72 http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/public-consultation/pdf/FIN%20PoM%20of%20marine%20strategy%202016_2021.pdf

73 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18818>

74 <http://www.helcom.fi/Lists/Publications/Regional%20Action%20Plan%20for%20Marine%20Litter.pdf>

75 <http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:norden:org:diva-4828>

76 <http://hdl.handle.net/10138/160315>

77 https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/government-decision-on-packaging-and-packaging-waste-no-962-of-1997-lex-faoc048422/?q=waste+plastic+packaging&type=legislation&country=Finland&xdate_min=&xdate_max=

78 <http://www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/2012/en20120179>

79 <http://www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/2011/en20110646>

waste unsuitable for recycling, ensuring that the treatment and disposal of waste does not have any harmful impacts, reducing the greenhouse gas emissions generated by waste, particularly by reducing the amount of biodegradable material placed in landfills and increasing the recovery of methane emissions resulting from the treatment of waste at landfills.

- o Environmental Act for Shipping (1672/2009)

4. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?

- Waste Act (646/2011): general provisions for littering. E.g. a person responsible for littering has the obligation to remove the object or substance from the environment and otherwise clean up the littered area.
- In the Finnish marine strategy 2016-2021 e.g. ghost nets are addressed as a potential cause of marine pollution.

France

1. Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?

- Le programme national de prévention des déchets (PNPD) 2014-2020 insiste sur la nécessité qu'il y ait, en termes de politiques publiques, une bonne coordination entre les outils de planification « déchets » et ceux liés aux milieux aquatiques, en particulier les « programmes de mesures » pris au titre de la directive-cadre sur la stratégie pour le milieu marin (DCSMM) pour veiller au bon état écologique des milieux marins, qui ont été adoptés en avril 2016.
 - Le Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Energie et de la Mer et l'ADEME ont publié la brochure "Prévention de la production des déchets-bilan 2016" qui dresse un bilan des actions de prévention contre les déchets marins menées depuis deux ans, tant au niveau national que local.⁸⁰
 - Lors de la conférence sur les océans des Nations Unies à New York du 5 au 9 juin 2017, la France s'est engagé à contribuer financièrement aux activités du PNUE dans le cadre du Partenariat mondial sur la litière marine (GPML), pour la période 2017-2020.⁸¹
- o Au 1er janvier 2020: limitation de la mise à disposition des gobelets, verres et assiettes jetables en matière plastique (sauf si compostables en compostage domestique et composés, pour tout ou partie de matières biosourcées);
 - o Au 1er janvier 2020: fin de la mise sur le marché des cotons-tiges en plastique à usage domestique;
 - o Au plus tard le 1er janvier 2018: fin de la mise sur le marché des cosmétiques rincés à usage d'exfoliation ou de nettoyage comportant des particules plastiques solides.
- Les projets de décrets d'application de ces deux dernières dispositions ont été notifiés à la Commission européenne.
 - La piste d'actions suivante a été identifiée relative à la production and l'usage de plastique susceptibles de polluer l'environnement marin et est en cours d'étude selon le Ministère de la transition écologique et solidaire:
 - o la prévention des problèmes liés aux pertes de granulés plastiques industriels (GPI) sur les sites de production et de transformation et lors de leurs transports

2. Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?

- La loi pour la transition énergétique et la croissance verte du 18 août 2015 et la loi pour la reconquête de la biodiversité, de la nature et des paysages du 8 août 2016 apportent des avancées majeures concernant la réduction de l'usage d'objets en plastique à usage unique avec les mesures suivantes:
 - o Au 17 août 2015: interdiction des emballages ou sacs oxo-fragmentables;
 - o Au 1er juillet 2016: fin de la mise à disposition des sacs de caisse en matière plastique à usage unique;
 - o Au 1er janvier 2017: fin de la mise à disposition des sacs destinés à l'emballage de marchandises (sauf pour les sacs « compostables en compostage domestique et constitués pour tout ou partie de matières biosourcées »);
- ## 3. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?
- Les pistes d'actions suivantes ont été identifiées relatives à l'élimination et la gestion des déchets susceptibles de polluer l'environnement marin et sont en cours d'étude selon le Ministère de la transition écologique et solidaire:
 - o la problématique des mégots de cigarettes
 - o d'une part, la réduction et la prévention des gestes d'abandon sur la voie publique ou dans la nature;
 - o d'autre part, l'analyse de la toxicité de ces mégots et de leur recyclabilité éventuelle: une étude de l'INERIS est en cours sur cette question;
 - o la limitation des envois de déchets (plastiques essentiellement) au niveau des sites de traitement, lors du déchargement ou l'entreposage (en centres de tri notamment) ou lors du transport de ces déchets.

80 <http://www.ademe.fr/prevention-production-dechets>

81 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=15686>

4. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?

- D'autres études sont en cours selon le Ministère de la transition écologique et solidaire qui sont relatives à la problématique des déchets marins déjà présents dans l'océan:
 - o sur les déchets aquatiques issus des villes pour prioriser l'action des collectivités souhaitant agir en leur permettant d'accéder aux aides publiques;
 - o sur la mise en place expérimentale d'une filière volontaire de récupération des filets de pêches usagés en vue d'une valorisation (économie circulaire).
- De plus, des actions de sensibilisation des acteurs, et notamment des citoyens vis-à-vis du geste d'abandon de déchets, restent unanimement identifiées comme des leviers majeurs et indispensables pour contribuer à réduire et prévenir les déchets marins. À cet égard, des associations mènent régulièrement des campagnes de sensibilisation, qui sont soutenues financièrement par le ministère.

Germany

1. Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?

- During the UN Ocean Conference in New York (5-9 June) the German Government made the following commitment related to marine litter:
 - Implementation of Ten-point Plan of Action for Marine Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries of the German Development Cooperation in which one field of action is the reduction of land-based marine littering.⁸²
- The Marine Strategy of Germany under the MSFD has the following national overarching environmental target for marine litter: “Seas without pressures from litter”.⁸³ The Programme of Measures (PoM)⁸⁴ also further establishes 3 operational environmental targets for the German parts of both the Baltic and the North Sea:
 - Continual reduction of inputs and reduction of existing levels of litter leading to a significant reduction in litter that has a harmful effect on the marine environment on beaches, at the sea surface, in the water column and on the seabed.
 - Levels of litter in marine organisms (especially microplastics) that are proven to be harmful tend towards zero in the long term.
 - Other adverse ecological effects (such as entanglement and strangulation in items of litter) are reduced to a minimum.
- Within the national Programme of Measures a number of measures have been defined specifically addressing marine litter.
- Regional cooperation is one of the policy pillars in Germany with regard to marine protection. Germany is member to the regional sea conventions OSPAR and HELCOM and has been strongly engaged in the development of regional action plans addressing marine litter. Both are consequently regarded as basic components of national German policy as well. Furthermore, the two action plans on marine litter, which Germany has initiated through its G7 and G20 presidencies,

are results and at the same time building blocks with regard to national policy on marine litter.

- A National Round Table on Marine Litter was established in 2016 in order to facilitate the implementation of the MSFD at the national level, as well as the implementation of the mentioned action plans. The round table involves stakeholders from industry, academia, NGOs, as well as administration from municipalities, state and federal governments.

2. Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?

- The PoM⁸⁵ has the following 3 new measures related to plastic production and use threatening the oceans:
 - Modification/substitution of products in a comprehensive life-cycle approach. This new measure aims “to identify items of particular concern with regard to risks to the marine environment in the German parts of the North and Baltic Seas by assessing the findings of beach litter monitoring, contents of fulmar stomachs”.
 - Avoiding the use of primary microplastic particles.
 - Reducing emissions and inputs of microplastic particles.
- In 2014 a dialogue with the cosmetics industry was established promoting and enhancing a swift phasing out of the use of microbeads in abrasive rinse-off products on a voluntary basis.

3. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?

- In Germany, every kind of waste has to be collected and treated (Reuse – Recycling – Energetic Recovery – Disposal) in a safe manner. Due to nationwide implemented systems for waste collection, environmental problems caused by “littering” are quite low.
- The PoM⁸⁶ has the following 4 existing measures related to waste disposal threatening the oceans:
 - Waste management (refund systems and recovery quotas for packaging, ban on landfilling of plastics, waste avoidance).

82 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16102>

83 http://www.meeresschutz.info/berichte-art13.html?file=files/meeresschutz/berichte/art13-massnahmen/MSFD_Art13_Programme_of_Measures_English-Summary.pdf

84 Ibid

85 Ibid

86 Ibid

- o Ban on dumping of waste in the high seas.
 - o Specifications for port reception facilities, garbage record books and waste management plans.
 - o Provisions on ship-generated waste: Port State Control, Special Areas pursuant to MARPOL Annex V.
 - The PoM⁸⁷ has the following new measure related to waste disposal threatening the oceans:
 - o Reducing inputs of plastic litter, e.g. plastic packaging, into the marine environment.
4. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?
- The PoM⁸⁸ has the following 4 new measures related to the challenge of plastic waste that is already in the oceans:
 - o Including the topic “marine litter” in learning goals, teaching plans and materials.
 - o Establishing the “Fishing for litter” approach.
 - o Removing existing marine litter.
 - o Reducing amounts of plastic through local provisions.

87 Ibid

88 Ibid

Greece

1. **Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?**
 - In the context of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD, EU 2008/56) that Greece has incorporated into its national legislation (Law 3983/2011), the goal is to achieve, by 2020, through conservation or restoration, Good Environmental Status (GES) for the marine waters and environment. In particular, the National Marine Strategy includes concrete descriptors for ensuring a Good Environmental Status including one on marine litter, stating that GES is achieved only when "properties and quantities of marine litter do not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment" and foresees the elaboration and implementation of a wide range of related measures. The environmental objectives and indicators for marine litter are determined in paragraph 10a of the Ministerial Decision 1175/2012 making reference to the reduction of waste on the coasts and in the marine environment from manmade sources, in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 10 of Law 3983/2011.
2. **Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?**
 - At the moment there is no designated legislation for addressing plastic production impacting the oceans; however, this very important issue is covered by a wide range of national legislation regulating waste production (including plastics) through the promotion of recycling and creating market values for the recyclable fragment, i.e.
 - o the "National Waste Management Plan" and
 - o accompanying "National Strategic Plan for Waste Prevention" (Ministerial Council Act 49/2015) incorporating all the provisions of EU Directive 98/2008 (transposed into national legislation with Law 4042/2012). This national legislation also covers the notion of the extended responsibility of the producers that have to take into consideration, in a circular economy context, the whole life-cycle of a product including the potential markets of used parts or materials that could be recovered once it becomes waste.
3. **Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?**
 - With regard to plastic waste from land based sources, this is regulated through the implementation of the existing national legislation on Waste and Recycling (Act 49/2015, Law 4042/2012), the EU Water Framework Directive as transposed into national legislation (Law 3199/2003 and Presidential Decree 51/2007, both as amended) and even the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (transposed with the 5673/400/1997 Joint Ministerial Decision).
 - Prevention of plastic waste entering the marine and coastal environment from sea sources, i.e. shipping and fisheries, is addressed through MARPOL and the Port Reception Facilities Directive, whereas the fisheries sector is addressed through, inter alia, the Common Fisheries Policy, which contains provisions to reduce marine debris in the form of fishing gear.
 - Particular emphasis in Greece is placed on the protection and conservation of our high quality bathing waters (Joint Ministerial Decision 8600/416/2009 transposing EU Directive 2006/7) with the annual implementation of concrete bathing waters monitoring programmes. Finally, the implementation of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution in Greece (Law 3022/2002) is also an additional means to address plastic waste in the marine environment.
4. **Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?**
 - Ministerial Decision 126635/2016 establishes the monitoring programmes for the continuous assessment of the environmental status of marine waters, referred to in article 11 of Law 3983/2011.
 - Joint Ministerial Decision 126856/2017 establishes the institutions responsible for the monitoring of the quality of marine waters.
 - The excellent quality of beaches and bathing waters is a priority for Greece and especially for the Special Secretariat for Water (Joint Ministerial Decision 8600/416/2009, transposing EU Directive 2006/7) with the annual implementation of programmes of measures, which include clean-up activities on the beaches.

- Several NGOs conduct clean-up campaigns while Research Institutes like the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), a governmental research organisation operating under the supervision of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT) of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, carry out extended monitoring programmes. The HCMR is responsible according to the Joint Ministerial Decision 126856/2017 for conducting the monitoring programmes foreseen under the MSFD.

Hungary

1. Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?

- There are no direct legal or policy instruments related to marine litter in Hungary, including the field of waste management.
- As a landlocked country, Hungary indirectly contributes to the sea and ocean protection through its participation in the international river basin cooperation (e.g. Danube and Tisza rivers) and related measures such as the elimination of illegal waste disposal sites in the floodplains along rivers.

2. Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?

- In 2011, the Hungarian government decided to revise the law of the environmental product fee. The system of discounts and exemptions was abrogated in favour of manufacturers' responsibility. The efficiency of this modification was shown by the example of the plastic carrier bag. Before the new regulation entered into force, on average 3000 tons of plastic carrier bags were used annually and the consumers could get them for free when shopping. This number fell down to almost a half after 2012. According to experts' estimates, currently around 90 lightweight plastic bags are sold per person annually in Hungary, which complies with the target aimed at by the EU by 2020. The reason for this reduction was that producers and distributors had to start to pay the environmental product fee, which was incorporated into the product's price. This fee is currently 1 900 HUF/kg (~6 EUR). As a result, the customers no longer receive plastic bags for free and they therefore prefer the reusable solutions in order to avoid unnecessary expenses. The product fee was also extended to plastic artificial flowers, as these products cannot be recycled nor turned into energy in Hungary.

3. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?

4. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?

Ireland

1. **Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?**
 - The Programme of Measures (PoM) of Ireland under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) includes a target on marine litter that aims at a reduction in the number of visible litter items within specific categories/types on coastlines. Under Descriptor 10 Marine litter, the PoM of Ireland mentions that “measures are principally aimed at reducing litter levels through waste management for both sea-based and land-based sources of litter in conjunction with enforcement, beach cleaning and education, so that marine litter is reduced”⁸⁹. Indeed, the PoM includes 30 measures that are under Descriptor 10 Marine litter. Some highlighted measures directly addressing marine litter in a general sense include the following:
 - o To continue to implement the OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter
 - o To continue efforts to improve business attitudes and behaviors around marine and coastal litter.
 - o Maintain sea users’ awareness of waste issues and encourage compliance with existing rules.
 - The government of Ireland has made 2 commitments related to marine plastic litter at the UN Ocean Conference in New York:
 - o Microbead Ban in Cosmetics and other Household Products of which the target is to introduce legislation banning microbeads in household products by January 2018.⁹⁰
 - o Ireland is also part of a commitment initiated by the Swedish government that aims to ban the placing on the market of rinse-off cosmetic products that contains plastic micro beads that are intended to be used to exfoliate or cleanse the human body by June 2020.⁹¹
2. **Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?**
 - Waste Management (Environmental Levy) (Plastic Bag) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 167 of 2007). These Regulations amend the Waste Management (Environmental Levy) (Plastic Bag) Regulations 2001 so as to increase the amount of environmental levy on plastic bags.⁹²
 - The PoM of Ireland includes the following measures directly related to plastic production and use that might impact the oceans⁹³:
 - o To continue to charge for single use carrier bags through the application of the Plastic Bag (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations (S.I. No. 167/2007), amending Plastic Bag Regulations (S.I. No. 605/2001).
 - o To continue to implement the Producer Responsibility Initiative to increase the recycling of farm plastic waste through the application of the farm plastics recovery scheme.
 - In addition, to the Producer Responsibility Initiative applied to the recycling of farm plastic, it is stated in Ireland’s waste management policy “A Resource Opportunity” that “the principal producer responsibility initiatives which have since been introduced are in the areas of Waste electrical and electronic equipment, batteries, packaging, end-of-life vehicles and tyres”.⁹⁴
3. **Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?**
 - The PoM of Ireland includes the following measures directly related to plastic disposal and oceans⁹⁵:
 - o To continue to enforce the requirement to put in place a site waste management plan for marine-related developments through the application of the EU Directive 2000/59/EC on port reception facilities for ship-generated wastes and cargo residues.

89 http://www.environ.ie/sites/default/files/public-consultation/files/outcome/msfd_poms_summary_report.pdf

90 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21484>

91 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18818>

92 https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/waste-management-environmental-levy-plastic-bag-amendment-no-2-regulations-2007-si-no-167-of-2007-lex-faoc089349/?q=plastic+bag+levy&type=legislation&xcountry=Ireland&xdate_min=&xdate_max=

93 http://www.environ.ie/sites/default/files/public-consultation/files/outcome/msfd_poms_summary_report.pdf

94 https://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/waste/plans/Resource_Opportunity2012.pdf

95 http://www.environ.ie/sites/default/files/public-consultation/files/outcome/msfd_poms_summary_report.pdf

- o To reduce litter entering rivers and other water bodies by addressing pollution from surface water runoff and drainage through the application of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).
 - o Continued Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from Ships through the implementation of regulations laid out in MARPOL Annex V (entered into force 31 December 1988) and S.I. No. 372/2012.
4. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?
- The PoM of Ireland includes the following measures directly related to plastic waste already polluting⁹⁶:
 - o Continue beach cleaning (with Local Authority operational cleaning of the foreshore) and litter enforcement.
 - o Maintain and expand the Fishing for Litter Scheme.
 - o To continue to raise awareness to tackle the sources of litter through the Blue Flag Beach and Green Coast Award programmes.
 - o To continue to raise awareness to tackle the sources of litter through the international environmental education programme Eco-Schools. This includes developing an international Eco-School module on marine litter with the Celtic Seas Partnership, Eco Schools (FEE - Copenhagen) and An Taisce.
 - o On-going implementation of the #2minute-beachclean/#Glantra2noimead initiative and expansion across all blue flag beaches in Ireland.

96 http://www.environ.ie/sites/default/files/public-consultation/files/outcome/msfd_poms_summary_report.pdf

Italy

1. Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?

- During the UN Ocean Conference in New York (5-9 June 2017), a commitment was made to reinforce the plastic bag coalition which the Italian government is a part of (initiated by France, Monaco and Morocco in 2016⁹⁷). This coalition aims at promoting the reduction of plastic waste pollution of the oceans and in particular the elimination of single-use plastic bags in all countries. The members of the coalition adopt the commitment to promote, in particular, the elimination of these plastic bags in a manner consistent with existing international instruments and policies. The Italian commitment includes deliverables such as: “Support the development of a roadmap of political goals on marine litter, including key practical targets (e.g., elimination of single-use plastic bags in 100 countries by 2020)”⁹⁸.
- Italy transposed the Marine Strategy Framework Directive into its national legislation through the Legislative Decree n. 190 of 13th October 2010. Two ministerial decrees followed the Legislative Decree: DM 17th October 2014 and DM 11th February 2015. In the mentioned ministerial decree DM 17th October 2014, the following targets are stated:
 - o T 10.1: The amount of marine waste present on the coasts, floors/sea beds and in the water column, including those floating on the surface of the sea, tends to decrease.
 - o T 10.2: The trend in the amount of waste ingested by marine animals is decreased.
 - o T 10.3: Gaps in knowledge about the sources, state, composition, dispersion and impacts of waste at sea are reduced by increasing the number of survey programs.
- The Law No. 221 of December 28, 2015, Provisions on the Environment to Promote the Green Economy and to Restrict the Excessive Use of Natural Resources, ensures compliance with requirements related to environmental impact

assessments in coastal and marine areas and to minimizing marine pollution⁹⁹. The law is mentioned in the Italian MSFD Programme of Measures as an existing measure under Descriptor 10 (Marine litter) entitled: “Green economy measures for seawater purification and reduction of very small waste and smoke products” (articles 27 and 40 of Law 221/2015).

- The Italian MSFD Programme of Measures proposes a new measure that tackles marine litter and its prevention in general¹⁰⁰:
 - o Implementation of training and awareness-raising measures to increase knowledge and encourage education of the public and economic operators for the prevention of marine litter.
 - The Italian MSFD Programme of Measures includes also another existing measure related to the prevention of marine litter in general:
 - o Measures of awareness-raising and communication to the public to increase the knowledge of marine litter, promoting its prevention and progressive reduction.
- ## 2. Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?
- A law demanding a complete ban on the use of microplastics in cosmetic products by 2019 has been discussed and approved by the Italian Parliament. It is expected to be approved by the Senate as well.
 - Italy banned the distribution of lightweight plastic bags that are not from biodegradable sources with the law 116/2014. This law is mentioned in the Italian MSFD Programmes of Measures as an existing measure addressing the regulation of single-use bags.

3. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?

- The Legislative Decree n. 205/2010 regulates the waste disposal in marine waters. The Decree is the national transposition of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD), Directive 2008/98/EC.

97 https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2-International%20coalition%20to%20reduce%20plastic%20bags%20pollution-briefing%20note_EN.pdf

98 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=15686>

99 <http://loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/italy-comprehensive-legislation-on-the-green-economy/>

100 http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/it/eu/msfd_pom/msfd4text/envwvdfrg

- Directive 2000/59/EC regarding port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues has been implemented by Legislative Decree n. 182 of 24 June 2003.
 - Directive 2008/99/CE (on the protection of the environment through criminal law) and Directive 2009/123/CE (amending Directive 2005/35/EC on ship-source pollution and on the introduction of penalties for infringements) have been implemented by Legislative Decree 121/2011 and Legislative Decree n. 68/2015.
 - The Italian MSFD Programme of Measures proposes a new measure under Descriptor 10: Marine litter related to waste disposal and waste management:
 - Design and implementation of measures to improve the management of waste generated by fishing and aquaculture, including dismantled equipment, favouring, where possible, re-use, recycling and recovery.
 - The Italian MSFD Programme of Measures also has three existing measures that are related to waste disposal and waste management:
 - Measure to regularize the waste disposal permit in marine waters.
 - Measures to reduce discharges into the sea, particularly the illegal ones, of waste and cargo residues produced by ships using ports in the state territory, and to improve the availability and use of port collection facilities for such waste and residues.
 - Measure that defines marine waste as urban solid waste even if not completely in line with the MSFD.
4. [Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?](#)
- The Italian MSFD Programme of Measures proposes a new measure under Descriptor 10: Marine litter related to waste disposal and waste management:
 - Study, design and creation of a collection and disposal chain of accidentally harvested litter from fishermen.

Latvia

1. **Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?**
 - Latvia has established the qualitative marine environmental target "Litter does not cause harm to the marine ecosystem" for the Descriptor 10 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Latvia's Programme of Measures (PoM) has indicated initial quantified environmental targets based on the data from 5 years within the UNEP/IOC beach monitoring. There are five measures for D10 defined in the PoM.
 - Marine litter in beaches as an environmental indicator is included in the Long-term Thematic Plan for Spatial Development of the Baltic Sea Coastal Public Infrastructure until 2030 (adopted in 2016; developed in accordance with the National Coastal Spatial Development Strategy for 2011-2017).
2. **Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?**
 - Some elements/measures in relation to plastic use are included in the national documents on MSFD D10 (voluntary deposit systems of used packaging on the coast, natural resource tax reform, limitations of plastics packaging & single-use items in coastal areas). They are included in the optional list of actions.
3. **Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?**
 - The National Waste Management Plan for 2013-2020 prescribes the prevention of waste at the source, as well as information and public awareness-raising. As regards marine litter, focus should be on the identification of waste sources and prevention measures. Latvia believes that the marine litter issue should become an integral part of the upcoming EU Plastics Strategy. Latvia acknowledges the importance of developing sustainable production and consumption practices in all sectors. Focus should be put on the 3 Rs principle of the circular economy: reduce, reuse and recycle.
4. **Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?**
 - Marine litter quantified data and municipal performance at national level are included in the criteria of the Blue Flag programme (municipalities that want to get certification must comply with the targets set at national level).
 - Campaign "My Sea": it implements the citizen science based survey/monitoring programme of marine litter according to the UNEP/IOC beach litter survey methodology (+ according to the riverine inputs method of BLASTIC project currently being tested¹⁰¹) and from 2017 is establishing municipal profiles about ML issues, promoting the profiles as a policy instrument.
 - Latvia is committed to reducing the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags. Latvia's experience shows that the application of economic instruments has been efficient. The upcoming results of the study on the amounts of plastic bags consumption and trends in Latvia will suggest possible measures for limited use of lightweight plastic bags (marketing restrictions or other).

101 <https://www.blastic.eu>

Lithuania

1. **Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?**
 - In the Programme of Measures (PoM) for Lithuania under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) it is indicated that one of the targets is “to reduce the impact of marine litter on the coastal and marine environment“ and the following indicators (targets) for marine litter have been included in the Programme¹⁰²:
 - The trend of the annual average volume of litter washed ashore and/or deposited on the coastline (100 m of beach) remains stable compared to the initial quantity, which is 222 units/100 m of beach, although the value may change by the end of 2015. The target is to achieve that the amount of litter/ by 2020 is less than 155 units/100 m of beach.
 - The trend of the annual average volume of litter deposited on the sea-floor remains stable compared to the initial quantity, which is 1.3 units/ha. The target is to achieve that the amount of litter/100 m of beach by 2020 is less than 0.91 units/ha.
2. **Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?**
 - A deposit system for plastic bottles is in place in Lithuania.
3. **Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?**
 - Provisions on recycling and reuse of plastic are found in the general provisions within the Law on Waste Management.
 - Art. 12 of the Law on Protection of Marine Environment provides that disposal and incineration (burning) of waste in the sea region (territorial waters and exclusive economic zone) of the Lithuanian Republic is prohibited.
 - All ships registered under Lithuanian flag shall not dispose or incinerate waste in the Baltic sea. Art. 16 of the Law on Protection of Marine Environment provides that the captain of the vessel must ensure that before he leaves the port all waste generated in the vessel must be submitted to port waste reception facilities.
- Article 28(3) of Law on Sea Port provides that the administration of the sea port must ensure the acceptance and management of all waste originating from ships.
- The Programme of Measures (PoM) lists legislative measures for marine litter that are related to waste disposal and waste management:
 - o To ensure effective compliance with the existing requirements on the management of litter from ships and shipping related litter by monitoring ships and giving more attention to recreational ships and fishing vessels.
 - o To revise the no-special-fee system (Klaipėda Port Waste Management Plan) to include:
 - waste paints, chemicals, batteries, fluorescent lamps, and
 - marine litter caught in fishing nets in the Baltic Sea.
 - o To amend the Waste Management Regulations by excluding and defining marine litter and develop special classifications for excluding marine litter from the general municipal waste stream.
4. **Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?**
 - Art. 5 of the Law on Protection of Marine Environment provides that the Government of the Lithuanian Republic shall elaborate a monitoring programme of the sea environment and one of the substituent parts of it shall be on marine litter.
 - The Programme of Measures (PoM) lists measures that are related to monitoring, awareness-raising and research on the issue of litter in the marine environment:
 - o To carry out monitoring of marine litter.
 - o To arrange information campaigns (including international ones) on marine litter and its threats. To promote international cooperation of marine litter reduction issues.
 - o To conduct a study on the pollution of the marine environment with litter in order to determine the ways of the entry of marine litter into the Lithuanian part of the Baltic Sea, to identify the types and amounts of litter, and to determine the damage caused to the marine ecosystem.

102 <http://vanduo.gamta.lt/files/Final%20report.pdf>

- (Municipal level) Legal acts covering only the terrestrial coastal zone (100 m inland from the coastline) and focused only on litter (including plastic litter) management on the terrestrial part of the shore:
 - o Order of the Minister of Environment No. D1-643 of 02-09-2013 “Programme on the Implementation of Planning Decisions of Special Plan of Terrestrial Part of Coastal Belt”; and
 - o Order of the Minister of Environment No. D1-204 of 09-03-2015 “On Approval of the Recreation Plan for Beaches of Terrestrial Part of Coastal Belt”.

Luxembourg

1. Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?

- Le Luxembourg n'a pas de stratégie marine dans le contexte de la directive-cadre sur la stratégie pour le milieu marin de l'union européenne, car le Luxembourg n'a pas de littoral.
- Lors de la conférence sur les océans des Nations Unies à New York du 5 au 9 juin 2017, le Luxembourg est devenu un partenaire d'un engagement, initié par le gouvernement suédois, qui vise à interdire la mise sur le marché d'ici juin 2020 des produits cosmétiques de rinçage contenant des microbilles en plastique destinées à exfolier ou à nettoyer le corps humain.¹⁰³

2. Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?

- Au niveau international, initiatives contre la prolifération des micro-plastiques et des sacs en plastiques : En 2014, le Luxembourg a soutenu l'appel lancé par les Pays-Bas, l'Autriche, la Belgique et la Suède pour interdire les microplastiques utilisés dans les détergents et les cosmétiques, une catégorie importante de déchets marins. Le Luxembourg soutient également l'initiative suédoise de lutte contre les déchets marins et s'engagera activement pour l'interdiction des microplastiques en produits cosmétiques afin de minimiser les quantités de déchets marins dans nos océans communs. La Commission européenne devra agir et présenter une directive allant dans ce sens.¹⁰⁴
- Le Luxembourg a découragé l'utilisation de "sacs en plastique à usage unique" et encourage les consommateurs à utiliser des sacs réutilisables permettant au pays de réduire la consommation de sacs en plastique de 545 millions sur 10 ans.¹⁰⁵
- Loi du 21 mars 2017 relative aux emballages et aux déchets d'emballages où « Art. 5. Réduction de la consommation de sacs en plastique » mentionne les objectifs suivants :
 - 1) le niveau de la consommation annuelle ne doit pas dépasser quatre-vingt-dix sacs en plastique légers par personne au 31

décembre 2019 et quarante sacs en plastique légers par personne au 31 décembre 2025. Les sacs en plastique très légers au sens de l'article 3, point 5 en sont exclus;

- 2) au 31 décembre 2018, aucun sac en plastique n'est fourni gratuitement dans les points de vente de marchandises ou de produits. Les sacs en plastique très légers au sens de l'article 3, point 5 en sont exclus.¹⁰⁶

3. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?

- Le Luxembourg est le seul Etat Membre de l'Union européenne dépourvu de littoral à être Partie contractante de la Commission régionale marine OSPAR. La Convention, conclue en 1992, est un mécanisme par lequel 15 gouvernements et l'UE coopèrent pour protéger le milieu marin de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est. Dans le cadre de cette commission a été adopté un plan d'action régional sur les déchets marins. Celui-ci vise à prévenir et à réduire la pollution des déchets marins dans l'Atlantique du Nord-Est et à cibler les rejets de litière provenant de sources terrestres et terrestres.¹⁰⁷
- Loi relative à la gestion des déchets 2012 mentionne que « la collecte séparée doit être instaurée d'ici 2015 au moins pour le papier, le métal, le plastique et le verre » et que « d'ici 2020, la préparation en vue du réemploi et le recyclage des déchets tels que, au moins, le papier, le métal, le plastique et le verre contenus dans les déchets ménagers (...) passent à un minimum de 50% en poids global ». ¹⁰⁸ Cette loi est établie sous obligation de l'UE.

4. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?

103 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18818>

104 <http://www.gouvernement.lu/7037191/09-milieu marin-actions-lux>

105 Idem

106 <http://legilux.public.lu/eli/etat/leg/loi/2017/03/21/a330/jo>

107 <http://www.gouvernement.lu/7037191/09-milieu marin-actions-lux>

108 <http://legilux.public.lu/eli/etat/leg/loi/2012/03/21/n1/jo>

Malta

1. Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?

- The Programme of Measures (PoMs)¹⁰⁹ report for Descriptor 10: Marine Litter (under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive) states the following environmental target proposed by Malta for marine litter in the first reporting cycle: “Efforts are undertaken to improve current level of knowledge on marine litter in Malta”, and the Good Environmental Status being “The amount of marine litter entering the marine environment shows a declining trend over time”. The summary report lists also all the existing measures as well as new measures related to marine litter.¹¹⁰

2. Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?

- In 2009, the Government of Malta introduced a tax on plastic bags as a measure to discourage people from using plastic bags, thus attempting to reduce the number of plastic bags used by the Maltese population.¹¹¹

3. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?

- WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE MALTESE ISLANDS: A Resource Management Approach 2014 – 2020, with a chapter on “Marine waste and waste disposal”, as well as a target mentioning plastic “to recycle 50% of paper, plastics, metal and glass waste from households by 2020”. This Waste Management Plan is established under the EU requirement for Member States to develop a waste management and prevention plan.¹¹²
- Port Reception Facilities for Ship-generated Wastes and Cargo Residues Regulations (L.N. 278 of 2004): these Regulations lay down provisions applicable to port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues.

The purpose is to reduce the discharges of ship generated waste and cargo residues into the sea, thereby enhancing the protection of the marine environment. These provisions apply to all ships including fishing vessels and recreational craft, irrespective of their flag, calling at any port or terminal in Malta.¹¹³

- Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Garbage) Regulations: with a view to preventing marine pollution from ships, these regulations govern disposal of garbage. The provisions apply both to Maltese ships, wherever they may be, and to other ships while they are in Malta. The disposal of all plastics from a ship into the sea outside of special areas is prohibited (reg. 4). The disposal of garbage other than plastic from a ship outside special areas is prohibited, except where it is made as far as possible from the nearest land and following specific conditions¹¹⁴.
- Waste Regulations, 2011: these Regulations aim at protecting human health and the environment by preventing or reducing the adverse impacts of waste management and generation. Regulation 3 defines the scope of the application and specifies waste not covered by these provisions. Plastic is mentioned in the scope of application in the Regulations¹¹⁵
- Waste Management (Packaging and Packaging Waste) Regulations, 2006 (L.N. 277 of 2006): these Regulations provide additional measures, procedures and guidance to those laid down in the Waste Management (Permit and Control) Regulations, 2001, which aim, as a first priority, at preventing the production of packaging waste and, as additional fundamental principles, at reusing packaging, at recycling and other forms of recovering packaging waste and thus also at reducing the final disposal of such waste.

109 <https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/MSFD-Programme-of-Measures.aspx>

110 https://era.org.mt/en/Documents/POMs_SummaryReport_Malta2017.pdf

111 <https://era.org.mt/en/Documents/MSFD-InitialAssessment-MarineLitter.pdf>

112 <http://msdec.gov.mt/en/Document%20Repository/Waste%20Management%20Plan%202014%20-%202020%20-%20Final%20Document.pdf>

113 https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/port-reception-facilities-for-ship-generated-wastes-and-cargo-residues-regulations-in-278-of-2004-lex-faoc118756/?q=marine+plastic&type=legislation&xcountry=Malta&xdate_min=2000&xdate_max=2014

114 https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/merchant-shipping-prevention-of-pollution-by-garbage-regulations-lex-faoc041818/?q=marine+plastic&type=legislation&xcountry=Malta&xdate_min=1997&xdate_max=2014

115 https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/waste-regulations-2011-in-184-of-2011-lex-faoc103368/?q=waste+plastic&type=legislation&xcountry=Malta&xdate_min=2000&xdate_max=2014

- “Disposal at sea is regulated nationally through the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (London Convention) and its 1996 Protocol (London Protocol), the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, 1976 (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols”.¹¹⁶
- 4. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?
- The Programme of Measures under the MSFD for marine litter proposes 5 new measures to implement¹¹⁷:
 - o Identification and mapping of areas with accumulated litter on the seabed or in the water column and potential removal of such litter
 - o Establish formal collaboration with NGOs for participation in the Mediterranean coastal clean-up day
 - o Educational Campaign for seafarers on marine litter
 - o To identify options for re-designing fishing gear or practices to reduce discarded or lost fishing gear
 - o Implementation of ‘Fishing for Litter’ scheme

116 <http://msdec.gov.mt/en/Document%20Repository/Waste%20Management%20Plan%202014%20-%202020%20-%20Final%20Document.pdf>

117 https://era.org.mt/en/Documents/POMs_SummaryReport_Malta2017.pdf

Netherlands

1. Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?

- During the UN Ocean Conference in New York (5-9 June 2017), the Netherlands committed to Combat Litter by undertaking¹¹⁸:
 - o Continued monitoring of litter on Dutch beaches, in birds (fulmar stomach) and on the seafloor.
 - o Development of monitoring of microplastics in sediments in the North Sea.
 - o Implementation of measures against marine litter, including: clean-up actions; education activities; awareness raising; actions to reduce specific items in the marine environment; the fishing for litter project and improvement of waste facilities on beaches, in harbours and on ships.
- In the Marine Strategy for the Netherlands part of the North Sea 2012-2020¹¹⁹ adopted in late 2015 as part of the second National Water Plan, the Government established that the targets for 2020 are:
 - o Decrease in the quantity of visible beach litter (basic reference 2002-2009).
 - o Decreasing trend in the quantity of litter in marine organisms (basic reference 2005-2009).
- The MSFD Programme of Measures for Marine Litter in the Marine Strategy for the Netherlands part of the North Sea 2012-2020¹²⁰ lists existing measures tackling the issue (the following existing measures mentioned are national level policies and regulations that address marine litter in a general sense):
 - o From Waste to Raw Material (VANG) Programme (now integrated in the EC program) that the State Secretary for Infrastructure and the Environment launched which aims to halve the quantity of waste being dumped or incinerated within a decade. The Programme includes important policy elements to reduce litter and hence

marine litter, such as the Packaging Framework Agreement 2013-2022, the National litter policy, the Plastic Cycle Chain Agreement and the National Waste Management Plan 2.

- New measures in the MSFD Programme of Measures to combat marine litter are included in so-called Green Deals. A Green Deal is a mutual agreement or covenant under private law between a coalition of companies, civil society organizations and local and regional government.¹²¹ 3 Green Deal are mentioned in the MSFD Programme of Measures:
 - o Green Deal Ship Generated Waste
 - o Green Deal Fishery for a Clean Sea
 - o Green Deal Clean Beaches
 - Planned measures in the MSFD Programme of Measures to combat marine litter also highlight the existence of the OSPAR Convention Regional Action Plan Marine Litter in which the Netherlands is leading the development of the following OSPAR measures: regional coordination of the implementation of the directive on port reception facilities and improving the implementation of ISO standards; reducing the impact of dolly ropes; exchanging best practices to reduce waste in rivers; tackling microplastics in cosmetics products and other sources; and reinforcing Fishing for Litter agreements.
 - The Ministry is also taking action to more effectively integrate the theme 'marine litter' in education materials and thus reduce large-scale balloon launches and combat microbeads in cosmetics.
- ## 2. Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?
- The following existing measures mentioned in the Dutch MSFD Programme of Measures are measures related to the production and use of plastic:
 - o Voluntary reduction of emissions of microplastics in cosmetic products.
 - o A ban on giving away carrier bags for free has come into force on 1 January 2016.¹²²

118 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18046>

119 https://www.noordzeeloket.nl/en/Images/Marine%20Strategy%20for%20the%20Netherlands%20part%20of%20the%20North%20Sea%202012-2020%2C%20Part%201_683.pdf

120 https://www.noordzeeloket.nl/en/Images/NL%20Marine%20Strategy%20part%203%20English%20translation_5022.pdf

121 <http://www.greendeals.nl/english/green-deal-approach/>

122 <https://www.government.nl/topics/environment/ban-on-free-plastic-bags>

- o Plastic Cycle Chain Agreement included in the From Waste to Raw Material (VANG) Programme.
 - The effect of the Dutch effort is manifested in the Government-wide Programme for the Circular Economy. The objective serves the higher goal of achieving a transition to a sustainable economy in which production and consumption cycles are closed. This discourages the use of disposable consumer goods (plastic bags, plastic packaging materials) and stimulates sustainable consumption ('non-disposable culture') on the basis of the possible alternatives. Many measures will also have to be taken in other frameworks, such as requirements for packaging, eco-design, waste policy, etc. Companies in the Netherlands have signed a National Raw Materials Agreement in which they declare that they are using fewer primary raw materials. The raw materials agreement is worked out in detail in the transition agendas of the Government-wide Programme for the Circular Economy.¹²³
3. **Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?**
- The following existing measures mentioned in the Dutch MSFD Programme of Measures are national level policies and regulations that are related to waste management and disposal:
 - o National litter policy that was established for the mainland in 2016. This policy includes, for example, an action plan for pilot projects with an innovative return bonus or reward system for small PET bottles and Producer Responsibility.
 - o National Waste Management Plan 1 and 2.¹²⁴
 - o Dutch Framework Agreement 2013-2022 on packaging (FAP) with manufacturers to reduce and to recycle packaging.
 - o Packaging Management Decree laying down rules for packaging and packaging waste.
 - o Landfill ban.
 - o Ban on the discharge of garbage by ships (MARPOL Annex V).
 - In the MSDF Dutch Programme of Measures it is explained that the Green Deal for Ship Generated Waste includes concrete agreements to close the maritime waste cycle by means of waste prevention during provisioning, further optimisation of supervision, optimisation of waste delivery in seaports and recycling of plastic maritime waste ashore. This deal has two objectives:
 - o By 2017, 50% of the ships that deposit plastic waste will have separated that waste prior to depositing it at the Dutch ports where separated collection and processing are possible. This is 75% of the ships of ship owners who are affiliated with the Royal Association of Netherlands Ship-owners (KVNR).
 - o By 2017 all the separated plastic delivered is also collected, removed and processed separately by the members of the Association of Environmental Services Enterprises for Shipping (VOMS). 100% of the ('clean') plastic waste collected by the members will be recycled or processed into fuel. They will re-sort as much of the deposited mixed plastic as possible so as to recycle as much of that plastic as possible.
4. **Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?**
- In the MSDF Dutch Programme of Measures it is explained that Green Deal for Clean Beaches provides insight into how different parties go about cleaning up the Dutch North Sea beaches and keeping them clean. This Green Deal has 3 objectives:
 - o Permanently cleaner beaches: Less litter is found on the Dutch North Sea beaches by 2020.
 - o Good cooperation and coordination between parties: By 2020 all Dutch coastal municipalities are united in the Green Deal for Clean Beaches. The number of participating beach operators, NGOs and other companies and organisations increases annually between 2015 and 2020.
 - o Proper attitude and behaviour of beach goers: By 2020 beach goers leave less waste behind on the Dutch North Sea beaches.

123 https://www.government.nl/binaries/government/documents/policy-notes/2016/09/14/a-circular-economy-in-the-netherlands-by-2050/17037+Circulaire+Economie_EN.PDF

124 <http://rwsenvironment.eu/subjects/from-waste-resources/national-activities/national-waste/>

- Fishing for Litter Programme which is currently the only OSPAR measure in place for reducing marine litter.
- In the catchment areas, various parties are working together on implementing cleaning campaigns in the rivers and on exchanging knowledge about litter. The Clean Meuse Cooperation Agreement is one example of this.
- Monitoring litter on land and in the water is monitored in different ways. On land through the nationwide monitoring of litter, offshore by means of beach litter, the amount of plastics in the stomachs of Northern Fulmar, and seabed litter; three indicators that are included in the monitoring programme of the Dutch Marine Strategy. The Government is also cooperating in various research studies in order to improve monitoring: a study into the knowledge agenda and monitoring method for microplastics, a study into developing a way of monitoring microplastics in freshwater, and a study into the possibilities of monitoring river litter. - Various research on microplastics¹²⁵¹²⁶.

125 <http://www.rivm.nl/bibliotheek/rapporten/2014-0156.pdf>

126 http://www.rivm.nl/Documenten_en_publicaties/Wetenschappelijk/Rapporten/2014/oktober/Inventarisatie_en_prioritering_van_bronnen_en_emissies_van_microplastics

Poland

1. **Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?**
 - Poland's Programme of Measures under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive includes some targets and measures related to marine litter, including the following relevant measure: "Increasing the effectiveness of the fight against pollution at sea".¹²⁷
2. **Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?**
 - The following relevant measure is included in the Programme of Measures¹²⁸: "Reducing the amount of packaging - action in the light of the Directive on packaging and packaging waste".
3. **Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?**
 - Regulation on packaging wastes management, 2005: this Regulation of the Minister of Economy and Labour establishes detailed rules on:
 - collecting and recycling packaging wastes of paper, glass, plastic, aluminum, steel, multi-materials; and on
 - recycling packaging wastes of wood¹²⁹.
 - Relevant measures planned in the Programme of Measures¹³⁰:
 - Use of the results of comprehensive guidelines for site selection of ecosystem methodology depositing sediments (ore faucet) in sea and coastal "dumping sites" management in the Baltic Sea area.
 - Supervising the proper functioning of the port reception facilities for waste and cargo residues.
 - The introduction of the principle of 'no special fee' for collecting waste from ships in ports.
 - Development of port reception facilities for waste and cargo residues.
4. **Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?**
 - Relevant measures planned in the Programme of Measures¹³¹:
 - Study on micro plastic in the marine environment.
 - Fishing for litter - cleaning of the sea.
 - Additional beach cleanup.
 - Restricting introduction of paraffins and derivatives to the marine water.
 - Marking of fishing gear - prevent ghost nets.
 - Reducing the amount of packaging - action in the light of the Directive on packaging and packaging waste.

127 http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/Converters/run_conversion?file=pl/eu/msfd_pom/balpl/envwjmbiq/BALPL_measures_20170206.xml&conv=534&source=remote

128 Idem

129 https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/regulation-on-packaging-wastes-management-lex-faoc062766/?q=plastic&type=legislation&xcountry=Poland&xdate_min=&xdate_max=

130 http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/Converters/run_conversion?file=pl/eu/msfd_pom/balpl/envwjmbiq/BALPL_measures_20170206.xml&conv=534&source=remote

131 http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/Converters/run_conversion?file=pl/eu/msfd_pom/balpl/envwjmbiq/BALPL_measures_20170206.xml&conv=534&source=remote

Portugal

1. Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?

- In the framework of the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) the Programme of measures have been published (in Portuguese only).¹³² There are a few projects to be implemented in relation to criteria 10.1 and 10.2 of the Descriptor 10 in the MSFD. Such projects involve the state institutions Portuguese Environment Agency (litter on beaches) and IPMA-National Institute for the Sea and the Atmosphere.
- During the UN Ocean Conference in New York (5-9 June) Portugal made the following commitments related to marine plastic litter:
 - o Work at the regional level, within the OSPAR Convention, for the reduction of marine litter in the Atlantic¹³³. Since 2013 Portugal has implemented the marine litter monitoring program in 9 beaches covering all continental Portuguese regions: North – Cabedelo (Viana do Castelo) and Barranha (Póvoa do Varzim), Center - Barra (Aveiro) and Osso da Baleia (Pombal), Tejo and West – Amoeiras (Torres Vedras) and Fonte da Telha (Almada), Alentejo - Monte Velho (Santiago do Cacém) and Algarve – Batata (Lagos) and Faro island (Faro). The data is reported to OSPAR data base.
 - o Expand the project Fisheries for a Sea Without Litter to all fishing ports in the Portuguese mainland¹³⁴. Reduce marine pollution through the development of technological platforms and tools that promote the circular economy of the sea¹³⁵.
- A few Portuguese locations are also participating in the Riverine Litter Observation Network project coordinated by JRC Ispra to study river inputs to marine litter.

2. Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?

- Portugal began a Green Fiscal Reform in January 2015 pursuing the following goals: to reduce

energy dependence; to induce sustainable production and consumption patterns; to contribute to eco-innovation and promote the efficient use of resources, including water, energy and materials (paradigm shift from a linear towards a circular economy); to encourage entrepreneurship and job creation; to diversify public revenue sources in a context of fiscal neutrality and economic competitiveness and to efficiently achieve international targets and goals. This Reform was designed under two principles: triple dividend (to protect the environment and to reduce energy dependency; to foster growth and jobs; to contribute to budgetary responsibility and to reduce external imbalances) and fiscal neutrality (net increase in revenue must be used towards the decrease of other taxes, namely on income).

- Under this Green Fiscal Reform one of the most important policy instruments for improving material resource efficiency was reviewed: the Waste Management Tax (TGR – Taxa de Gestão de Resíduos). The Green taxation reform also introduced a charge on lightweight plastic bags and a landfill tax.
- Tax on plastic carrier bags (50 micrometers): plastic carrier bags (<50µm thickness plastic film) are taxed at 10 € cents per bag instead of given for free in grocery stores and supermarkets. This tax is being applied since 15th February 2015. The tax is applied to carrier bags but NOT to thin plastic bags used as primary bags (no handles) in contact with food (for food safety, for example to carry meat and fish).
- [More information available in English at: http://www.crescimentoverde.gov.pt/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/ReformaFiscalidadeVerde_GreenTaxReform_emagazine.pdf]

3. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?

- Legal framework for packaging waste where the Extended producer responsibility is established and the goals for packaging waste recycling (recycling rate plastic >= 22,5). You can find (in Portuguese) information concerning the legal framework for packaging waste (including plastic): <http://www.apambiente.pt/index.php?ref=16&subref=84&sub2ref=197&sub3ref=276>

132 https://www.dgrm.mm.gov.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=dgrm&actualmenu=1470807&selectedmenu=1641550&xpgid=genericPageV2&conteudoDetalhe_v2=1641651

133 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18460>

134 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18169>

135 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18451>

- Strategic Plan for Solid Municipal Waste - PERSU 2020 (Package Waste – glass, plastic, paper and board, metal, wood; Electrical and Electronic Equipment; Batteries and Accumulators; Used Edible Oils). You can find (in Portuguese) information concerning the Plan: <http://www.apambiente.pt/index.php?ref=16&subref=84&sub2ref=108&sub3ref=209>
- 4. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?
- Research on marine litter and microplastics has been funded by the National Science Foundation such as POIZON - "Microplastics and persistent pollutants: a double threat to marine organisms (POIZON)" - 2010-2014.

Romania

1. Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?
 - The environmental targets for Romania are not set up yet because of lack of data in the first cycle of the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). The Romanian Programme of Measures is currently under development.
2. Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?
3. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?
 - Law no. 22/2001 (MARPOL – Annex 5 - Regulations for the Prevention of pollution by garbage from ships).
 - Governmental Ordinance no. 20/2012 (Directive 2000/59/EC on port reception facilities, with the aim of substantially reducing discharges of ship-generated waste and cargo residues into the sea).
 - Protocol on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Black Sea from Land-Based Sources and Activities (2009) in which litter is categorized as a substance of harmful characteristics.¹³⁶
4. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?

136 http://www.blacksea-commission.org/_od_LBSAProtocol.asp

Slovakia

1. Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?
2. Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?
3. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?
 - Waste Act 79/2015¹³⁷.
 - Government Ordinance on port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues.¹³⁸
4. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?

137 <http://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2015-79>

138 https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/government-ordinance-on-port-reception-facilities-for-ship-generated-waste-and-cargo-residues-lex-faoc079798/?q=marine&type=legislation&xcountry=Slovakia&xdate_min=&xdate_max=

Slovenia

1. [Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?](#)
 - The marine environment management plan 2017-2021 includes an initial assessment of marine litter and environmental targets concerning marine litter. The main environmental target for marine litter is the prevention of input of marine litter in the sea from maritime and coastal activities.
2. [Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?](#)
 - There is a draft decree on plastic bags use under public consultation. The adoption of the decree is expected in 2017.
3. [Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans \(waste disposal\)?](#)
 - In the framework of the EC Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), Slovenia's Marine environment management plan includes existing measures related to the prevention of waste from entering into the marine environment:
 - o Prevention of waste input from land in the marine environment: at national level, there is legislation that covers measures preventing waste input in the marine environment, e.g. input from industry, urban wastewater, etc.
 - o Prevention of waste input from maritime activities: at national level, there is legislation that covers measures preventing waste input in the marine environment; also relevant is the implementation of IMO (International Maritime Organization) legislation.
 - Slovenia's Marine environment management plan also includes new measures related to the prevention of waste from entering into the marine environment:
 - o Reducing the input of land-based waste into the marine environment. The following sub-measures (activities) are planned:
 - Implementation of Directive EU2015/720 on plastic bags,
 - Implementation of Regional action plan on marine litter in Mediterranean,
 - Implementation of Green Public Procurement (GPP),
 - Implementation of land area (coastlines and rivers, etc.)
 - o Implementation of Directive 2000/59/EC in line with MARPOL Annex V: the following sub-measure (activity) is planned:
 - Study on possibilities of introducing "No special fee system" in port.
 - o System for collecting waste fishing gear and collecting incidental catch waste: the following sub-measure (activities) are planned:
 - Establish a legal framework for the implementation of the system or collecting waste fishing gear and collecting incidental catch waste.
 - o Introduce the issues of marine litter into water policy (e.g. into water management plans).
 - o Preparation of a management plan for environmental friendly waste management in mariculture.
4. [Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?](#)
 - The marine environment management plan also includes measures to upgrade information and knowledge of the impacts of plastic and other materials on the marine environment.
 - The water act which defines tasks at national level to clean coastal waters and coastline regularly by various bodies of ministries.

Spain

1. Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?

- There are 4 relevant targets in the Spanish Programme of Measures¹³⁹ under the EU MSFD:
 - Prevention of marine litter from maritime sources.
 - Prevention of marine litter from land sources.
 - Removal of marine litter.
 - Awareness-raising and information measures on the problem of marine litter.
- Some specific legislation on waste includes some targets (related with issues such as packaging, vehicles, batteries).

2. Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?

- There are a number of pieces of legislation and policies related to litter generally, not only plastics, but also to waste reduction, toxics and impact of waste reduction, both at national and regional (Comunidades Autónomas – CCAA) levels¹⁴⁰:
 - Ley 22/2011, de 28 de julio, de residuos y suelos contaminados.
 - La normativa específica sobre determinado flujos de residuos (envases, RAEE y vehículos al final de su vida útil). En especial la aplicación de medidas de prevención en el ámbito de la responsabilidad ampliada del productor del producto.
 - Programa Estatal de Prevención de Residuos (2014-2020): desarrolla la política de prevención de residuos, conforme a la normativa vigente para avanzar en el cumplimiento del objetivo de reducción de los residuos generados en 2020 en un 10% respecto del peso de los residuos generados en 2010.
 - Normativa autonómica de desarrollo y Programas de Prevención de Residuos de las CCAA.
 - Programas de prevención a nivel local.

139 http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/public-consultation/pdf/ES_PoMs_executive_summary.pdf

140 Información proveniente de la presnetación del MAGRAMA durante los “Talleres Programas de Medidas” Día 18 de noviembre 2015: Basuras Marinas – EsMarEs http://www.mapama.gob.es/es/costas/temas/proteccion-medio-marino/estrategias-marinas/tallerbasuras-bloque2_tcm7-408177.pdf

- Programa emprenderverde Eco-Recinnova (FB y ECOEMBES): fomentar la creación y consolidación de empresas o nuevas líneas de negocio en el ámbito del Ecodiseño, el Reciclaje y la Eco-innovación.
- Actuaciones en materia de Ecodiseño realizadas por algunas CCAA (Premio Cataluña de Ecodiseño de la ARC; Basque Ecodesign Center creado en 2011; 9 guías sectoriales del Gobierno Vasco para la aplicación práctica del ecodiseño en empresas).
- Project: Royal Decree on reduction of use of plastic bags – 2 December 2016¹⁴¹. Such prohibition is already active in Catalonia (since March 2017¹⁴²),
- The Spanish Programme of Measures (in the framework of the MFSD) includes a number of related measures under Measure 29¹⁴³.

3. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?

The information below includes policies and legislation from both the national and regional (Comunidades Autónomas) levels. The presentation, from which this information was gathered (same as above¹⁴⁴, Workshop in Spain on 15 November 2015), ends with the questions: “is this complete?”, “are there initiatives that should also be listed here?”. Therefore, it is important to note that there may be additional information, also considering that 1,5 years have passed since then.

- Generally for litter, not only for plastics, on waste management:
 - Ley 22/2011, de residuos y suelos contaminados.
 - Plan Nacional Integrado de Residuos 2008-2015
 - Real Decreto 1481/2001 por el que se regula la eliminación de residuos medi-

141 http://www.mapama.gob.es/es/calidad-y-evaluacion-ambiental/participacion-publica/proyectorddreduccionconsumobolsasdeplastico_tcm7-443366.pdf

142 <http://portaldogc.gencat.cat/utillsEADOP/PDF/7340/1600738.pdf>

143 http://www.mapama.gob.es/es/costas/participacion-publica/anexos4_12_tcm7-406649.pdf

144 Idem previous footnote: http://www.mapama.gob.es/es/costas/temas/proteccion-medio-marino/estrategias-marinas/tallerbasuras-bloque2_tcm7-408177.pdf

- ante depósito en vertedero: requisitos que deben cumplir los vertederos de residuos e insta a clausurar los vertederos que no cumplan dichos requisitos como muy tarde el 16 de julio de 2009.
- o Normativa autonómica de desarrollo y Planes y Programas de Prevención y Gestión de Residuos de las CCAA.
 - Systems of deposit, devolution and return:
 - o Ley 11/1997, de 24 de abril, de envases y residuos de envases: Art. 6 obligaciones del SDDR.
 - o Ley 22/2011, de 28 de julio, de residuos y suelos contaminados: Art. 31 condiciones para la implantación de SDDR, carácter voluntario (límite de los supuestos del Art. 31.2.d).
 - o Programa Estatal de Prevención de Residuos (2014-2020): medida de reutilización de residuos urbanos de origen domiciliario los acuerdos voluntarios para promover el uso de envases reutilizables como el establecimiento de SDDR.
 - o Some relevant actions:
 - i. Ley 9/2014 de medidas tributarias, administrativas y sociales de Canarias: Art. 19 se prevé la implantación de un proyecto piloto de SDDR en las islas no capitalinas para los envases de bebida en 2016 si no se hubiera alcanzado como media de Canarias la media española en la recuperación de envases.
 - ii Proyecto piloto de SDDR en Cadaqués (Girona) en 2013 (ARC, Asociación Retorna y FPRIC).
 - Producer and other agents' responsibility:
 - o Ley 22/2011, de 28 de julio, de residuos y suelos contaminados: Art. 31 y 32 marco legal sistematizado y coherente, en virtud del cual los productores de productos que con su uso se convierten en residuos quedan involucrados en la prevención y en la organización de la gestión de los mismos, promoviéndose la reutilización, el reciclado y la valorización de residuos. Existen sistemas colectivos de responsabilidad ampliada (antes denominados SIG) para muchos flujos de productos (envases, RAEE, pilas y acumuladores, aceites usados, etc.).
 - Sustainable public procurement policies:
 - o Plan de Contratación Pública Verde de la AGE, sus Organismos Autónomos y las Entidades Gestoras de la Seguridad Social (2008): contempla como objetivo específico el uso de papel reciclado y los productos de limpieza de papel deberán ser de papel reciclado y las papeleras, contenedores, bolsas de basura u otros recipientes de materiales deberán ser de origen reciclado.
 - o Las CCAA litorales disponen de procedimientos de compra y contratación verde.
 - Reduction of the consumption of one-use plastic bags:
 - o Ley 22/2011, de 28 de julio, de residuos y suelos contaminados: DA2a sobre sustitución de bolsas de plástico no biodegradable de un solo uso.
 - o Campaña institucional para la reducción de bolsas comerciales de un solo uso realizada por el MAGRAMA entre los años 2010 y 2011: sensibilización a la población para que modifique sus hábitos de consumo, sensibilización a agentes económicos y sociales implicados (fabricantes, comercios, centros de distribución...).
 - o Impuesto sobre bolsas de plástico de un solo uso: Andalucía (Ley 11/2010, de 3 de diciembre, de medidas fiscales para la reducción del déficit público y para la sostenibilidad crea y regula el Impuesto sobre las Bolsas de Plástico de un solo Uso en Andalucía (IBP) grava el suministro de bolsas de plástico por los establecimientos comerciales).
 - o Cataluña (dentro del Pacto por la Bolsa, la ARC ha firmado un acuerdo en mayo 2015 con el sector comercial por el que los establecimientos cobrarán a los clientes las bolsas de plástico de un solo uso a partir de enero de 2016).
 - o Some relevant actions: Campaña «Plástico Cero. Lanzarote Reserva de la Biosfera» del proyecto Agüita con el plástico: campaña de sensibilización ambiental que se está extendiendo a otros lugares, se desarrollará entre 2014 y 2016, promovida por la Oficina de la Reserva de la Biosfera del Cabildo de Lanzarote.
 - Waste prevention from sanitation networks and infrastructures, especially for rain:
 - o Plan Nacional de Calidad de las Aguas (2007-2015): las EDAR necesariamente cuentan con un pretratamiento que retiene los residuos sólidos, impidiendo su salida junto con el efluente y consecuente llegada al medio marino.
 - o PHC (Watershed Planning) elaborados en cada demarcación hidrográfica en cumplimiento de la DMA recogen el conjunto de infraestructuras que persiguen el cum-

- plimiento de los objetivos ambientales establecidos, entre las que se encuentran las plantas de tratamiento de aguas residuales urbanas.
- o Real Decreto 849/1986, de 11 de abril, por el que se aprueba el RDPH y modificaciones posteriores: el 21/09/2012 entra en vigor el Art. 259 ter. «Desbordamientos de sistemas de saneamiento en episodios de lluvia» (criterios aplicables en las autorizaciones de vertido de sistemas de saneamiento de zonas urbanas e industriales, obligación del MAGRAMA de dictar normas técnicas para el diseño de las obras e instalaciones para la gestión de las aguas de escorrentía, Organismos de cuenca deberán disponer de un inventario de los puntos de desbordamiento de aguas de escorrentía de los sistemas de saneamiento antes del 31/12/2015, medidas para el control de desbordamientos de aguas de escorrentía).
 - Rainwater management:
 - o Medidas de la construcción y mejora de instalaciones para gestión de las aguas pluviales incluidas en los planes de cuenca, entre las que se encuentran: • Construcción de tanques de tormenta en aglomeraciones urbanas • Establecimiento de redes separativas para pluviales • Instalación de sistemas de separación de flotantes, aceites y grasas en aliviaderos.
 - o EL MAGRAMA elaboró en 2014 un Manual de recomendaciones para el diseño de tanques de tormenta.
 - On Waste Management:
 - o BM8. Plan Estatal Marco de Gestión de Residuos (PEMAR) 2016-2022. MAGRAMA (DGCEAMN). Aprobado por Acuerdo de Consejo de Ministros de 6 de noviembre de 2015. Futuros planes autonómicos elaborados en coherencia con el PEMAR.
 - o BM7. Estudio sobre implantación de sistemas SDDR de la Agencia de Residuos de Cataluña (pendiente inclusión). GENCAT (ARC) Capítulo 7.6 del PEMAR: Valorar la necesidad de analizar otros modelos, alternativas o sistemas complementarios para la recuperación de envases y residuos de envases, teniendo en cuenta su eficiencia y su viabilidad técnica, ambiental y económica contando con la visión de todos los implicados en dichos modelos, alternativas o sistemas.
 - o BM9. Revisión normativa en curso que afecta a la aplicación de la responsabilidad
- ampliada del productor. MAGRAMA (DGCEAMN)
- o BM29. Plan de Tratamiento o Evacuación a vertedero controlado en Melilla de residuos de papel y derivados y de plásticos de las Islas Chafarinas. OAPN
 - Rainwater Management:
 - o BM28. Normas de dimensionamiento de tanques de tormenta. MAGRAMA (DGA). Continuación del trabajo realizado 2014 con la elaboración del Manual de recomendaciones para el diseño de tanques de tormenta.
 - Sustainable production and consumption:
 - o BM10. Medidas en cumplimiento de la Directiva 2015/720 en lo que se refiere a la reducción del consumo de bolsas de plástico ligeras. MAGRAMA (DGCEAMN). Las medidas pueden consistir en: objetivos de reducción nacionales, mantenimiento o introducción de instrumentos económicos y restricciones a la comercialización (excepción Art. 18, proporcionadas y no discriminatorias). Medidas mínimas (a ó b, bolsas de plástico muy ligeras pueden excluirse): a) las que garanticen que consumo anual < 90 bolsas de plástico ligeras/persona a más tardar el 31/12/2019, y 40 bolsas de plástico ligeras/persona a más tardar el 31/12/2025, o un objetivo equivalente expresado en peso; b) la adopción de instrumentos que garanticen que, a más tardar el 31/12/2018, no se entreguen gratuitamente bolsas de plástico ligeras en los puntos de venta de mercancías o productos, a menos que se apliquen instrumentos igualmente eficaces.
 - o BM15. Desarrollo de instrumentos legales de limitación en el uso de plásticos oxo-degradables. MAGRAMA (DGCEAMN) Por ahora se podría limitar al caso de las bolsas porque la Directiva 2015/720 permitiría hacerlo.
 - o BM4. OperationCleanSweep.eu. Plastics Europe. Iniciativa europea con el objetivo de "0 pellet loss" para abordar la problemática de la granza en el medio marino a través de medidas para su adecuado manejo (fabricación, transporte y transformación) que evitaría las pérdidas hacia la red de saneamiento y de ahí al medio marino.
 - Effective implementation of the legal provisions:
 - o BM12. Asegurar la inclusión de referencias explícitas a las basuras marinas en todo instrumento de gestión de residuos que

se promuevan en el futuro. MAGRAMA (DGSCM). Medida desarrollada en el marco de consultas sobre instrumentos de planificación en materia de residuos: Capítulo 2 del PEMAR: Una gran parte de las basuras marinas proceden de fuentes terrestres (la cifra que se baraja más comúnmente se sitúa en un 80%), por lo que gran parte de la responsabilidad de establecer medidas eficaces para su reducción se asienta en políticas diferentes a la de protección del medio marino, entre ellas, la política de gestión de residuos. La correcta gestión de los residuos evita que éstos acaben en el medio marino, lo que contribuye positivamente a la consecución de los objetivos enmarcados en las Estrategias marinas para la protección y la conservación del medio ambiente marino.

- Knowledge improvement:
 - o BM11. Estudio sobre las cantidades de basuras marinas (incluidos microplásticos) procedentes de las plantas de tratamiento de aguas residuales y propuesta de medidas específicas para ser incorporadas en los planes de cuenca (3er ciclo). DGSCM-DGA y CCAA.
 - o BM13. Investigación sobre aspectos ecológicos de los microplásticos. MINECO Acción piloto JPI Oceans: proyectos BASEMAN, EPHEMARE, PLASTOX. España participa en estos 3 proyectos financiados en la convocatoria y que se desarrollarán entre diciembre de 2015 y diciembre de 2018.
 - o BM14: Estudio sobre cuantificación de fuentes de microplásticos e identificación de posibles medidas para su reducción en la fuente. MAGRAMA (DGSCM).

4. [Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?](#)

Sweden

1. Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?
 - During the UN Ocean Conference in New York (5-9 June 2017), the Swedish Government made the following 5 commitments which are related to marine litter:
 - o Responsible plastic management¹⁴⁵.
 - o Ban plastic microbeads in cosmetics¹⁴⁶.
 - o Support the development of a Source to Sea Approach to land based pollution including marine litter¹⁴⁷.
 - o Desktop Study on Marine Litter including Microplastics in the Arctic (Phase I)¹⁴⁸.
 - o Sweden is also mentioned in the context of the French commitment to contribute financially to UNEP activities under the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) for the 2017- 2020 period: “France and Sweden decided to contribute financially to UNEP activities under the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), for the 2017-2020 period”¹⁴⁹.
 - The Swedish Programme of Measures for the marine environment under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) contains a number of new measures towards the reduction of marine litter and lists some existing national regulations that are relevant to combat marine litter¹⁵⁰, including:
 - o The Swedish Environmental Code (1998:808)¹⁵¹ which prohibits littering and dumping of waste.
 - o The Waste Regulation (2011: 927)¹⁵² in which plastic is considered.
 - The Swedish Programme of Measures also mentions regional cooperation to combat marine litter, including the OPSAR Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter and the HELCOM Marine Litter Action Plan.
2. Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?
 - The list of existing regulations mentioned in the Swedish Programme of Measures for the marine environment includes some policies related to plastic production and use, including the Regulation (2014: 1073)¹⁵³ on producer responsibility for packaging (including plastic packaging).
3. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans (waste disposal)?
 - The list of existing regulations mentioned in the Swedish Programme of Measures for the marine environment includes some policies related to waste disposal and management:
 - o Regulation (2005: 220)¹⁵⁴ on return systems for plastic bottles and metal cans.
 - o Transport Agency's regulations (TSFS 2010: 96)¹⁵⁵ on ship-source pollution measures that include plastic waste.
 - o Act relative to measures against pollution caused by ships (1980: 242)¹⁵⁶.
 - The Swedish Programme of Measures for the marine environment proposes the following measures which are related to waste disposal that can impact the oceans¹⁵⁷:
 - o The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency: to conduct strategic work by including marine litter in relevant waste management plans and programs including the municipal waste plans, where the signifi-

145 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20448>

146 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18818>

147 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19789>

148 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18373>

149 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=15686>

150 <https://www.havochvatten.se/hav/uppdrag--kontakt/publikationer/publikationer/2016-01-25-god-havsmiljo-2020-marin-strategi-for-nordsjon-och-ostersjon---del-4-atgardsprogram-for-havsmiljon.html>

151 https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/swedish-environmental-code-1998808-lex-faoc050970/?q=marine+litter&type=legislation&xcountry=Sweden&xdate_min=&xdate_max=

152 http://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-lagar/dokument/svensk-forfattningssamling/avfallsforordning-2011927_sfs-2011-927

153 http://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-lagar/dokument/svensk-forfattningssamling/forordning-20141073-om-producentansvar-for_sfs-2014-1073

154 http://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-lagar/dokument/svensk-forfattningssamling/forordning-2005220-om-retursystem-for_sfs-2005-220

155 <http://www.transportstyrelsen.se/sv/Regler/ts-foreskrifter-i-nummerordning/2010/?RuleNumber=2010:96&RulePrefix=TSFS>

156 https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/act-relative-to-measures-against-pollution-caused-by-ships-lex-faoc029207/?q=waste+marine+environment&type=legislation&xcountry=Sweden&xdate_min=&xdate_max=

157 http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/gb/eu/msfd_pom/msfd4text/envvpazw/UK_Summary_report_final_20160329.pdf/manage_document

cance of waste management for preventing marine litter is highlighted. Material flows of plastic need to be prioritised and policy instruments should be investigated with the aim of reducing the prevalence of plastic items in the marine environment.

- o Municipalities: during the revision of municipal waste management plans, to identify and highlight how waste management can contribute to reducing the emergence of marine litter and establish objectives for such work.

4. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?

- The Swedish Programme of Measures for the marine environment proposes the following measures which are mainly related to waste already impacting the oceans¹⁵⁸:
 - o The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) to promote effective and sustainable methods for collection of lost fishing gear and prevent new losses into the marine environment.
 - o The SwAM, in collaboration with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, to develop a targeted national information campaign for the public and consumers regarding items of waste commonly occurring in the marine environment, their negative impact on the environment and the link to consumer behaviour.
 - o The SwAM to support initiatives which promote, organise and perform beach cleaning in areas particularly affected.

158 *ibid*

United Kingdom

1. [Are there any targets/strategies/policies at national level that specifically address marine litter?](#)
 - During the UN Ocean Conference in New York (5-9 June 2017), the United Kingdom (UK) has committed to do the following actions on Marine Litter¹⁵⁹:
 - Adoption of the National Litter Strategy.
 - 5 pence charge for all single-use plastic carrier bags introduced.
 - Signup to the UN Clean Seas initiative.
 - Outcome of UK consultation on proposed ban on microbeads in cosmetics and personal care products.
 - The UK has published a number of national strategies for marine litter:
 - National Litter Strategy for England in which marine litter is included¹⁶⁰.
 - Scotland's 2014 Marine Litter Strategy¹⁶¹.
 - Northern Ireland's 2013 Marine Litter Strategy¹⁶².
 - The UK Marine Strategy Part Three sets out the legal framework relevant to address the issue of marine litter at UK level under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).¹⁶³ The strategy includes the following targets:
 - An overall target: "The amount of litter, and its degradation products, on coastlines and in the marine environment are reducing over time and levels do not pose a significant risk to the coastal and marine environment, either as a result of direct mortality such as through entanglement, or by way of indirect impacts such as reduced fecundity or bio-accumulation of contaminants within food chains."
 - More specific targets:
 - Overall reduction in the number of visible litter items within specific categories/types on coastlines.
 - Surveillance indicator to monitor the quantities of litter on the seafloor.
- Surveillance indicator to monitor the amounts of plastic found in the contents of fulmars stomachs as a method of determining litter floating at the surface (in line with OSPAR Ecological Quality Objective).
- As a contracting party, the UK includes in its Marine Strategy the OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP) in the list of measures taken to reduce the amount of litter in the marine environment.
- The UK Marine Strategy also states the following policies that are relevant to address the issue of marine litter from a general and overarching perspective (e.g. littering as a criminal offence):
 - Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended) (England, Wales and Scotland).
 - Litter (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 (as amended).
 - Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (England and Wales).
 - Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (England) 2007.
 - Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.
 - Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006.

 2. [Is there any policy at national level addressing plastic production and use that impacts the oceans?](#)
 - England has introduced a 5p plastic bag charge in 2016 and Scotland, Wales and NI introduced plastic bag charges earlier resulting in a reduction in consumption of approximately 80%:
 - Single use carrier bags charge regulations (in Wales, 2010; Northern Ireland, 2013; Scotland, 2014; and England, 2015).¹⁶⁴
 3. [Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste entering the oceans \(waste disposal\)?](#)
 - The UK Marine Strategy lists the existing national legal instruments that are related to the production of waste and waste prevention and disposal in general. The following national policies are ones that are found specifically related to disposal of plastic waste and with mention of waste in the marine environment:

159 <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19719>

160 HM Government, *Litter Strategy for England April 2017*

161 The Scottish Government, *Marine Scotland: A Marine Litter Strategy for Scotland* (2014)

162 Department of the Environment, *Northern Ireland Marine Litter Strategy* (2013)

163 Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), *Marine Strategy Part Three: UK programme of measures* (2015)

164 https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/single-use-carrier-bags-charge-regulations-northern-ireland-2013-sr-no-4-of-2013-lex-faoc138681?q=single+use+carrier+bag&type=legislation&country=United+Kingdom&xdate_min=&xdate_max=

- o Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations¹⁶⁵.
- o Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011¹⁶⁶.
- o Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011¹⁶⁷.
- o Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012¹⁶⁸.
- o Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007¹⁶⁹ and in (Northern Ireland) 2007¹⁷⁰.
- o Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Port Waste Reception Facilities) Regulations 2003 (amended 2009).
- o International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex V.
- o Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Sewage and Garbage from Ships) Regulations 2008.
- o Welsh Government's strategy for tackling fly-tipping¹⁷¹.
- Wales' overarching waste strategy document includes plastic waste.¹⁷²

4. Is there any policy at national level that addresses plastic waste already polluting the marine and coastal environment?

- Fishing For Litter (FFL) scheme promoted by the OSPAR Convention.¹⁷³

165 https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/environmental-permitting-england-and-wales-regulations-2016-si-1154-of-2016-lex-faoc163577/?q=Environmental+Permitting+plastic&type=legislation&xcountry=United+Kingdom&xdate_min=&xdate_max=

166 https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/waste-england-and-wales-regulations-2011-si-no-988-of-2011-lex-faoc102346/?q=Waste+%28England+and+Wales%29+Regulations+&type=legislation&xcountry=United+Kingdom&xdate_min=&xdate_max=

167 <https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/waste-regulations-northern-ireland-2011-sr-no-127-of-2011-lex-faoc102832/?q=Waste+%28Northern+Ireland%2%A8%29+Regulations+>

168 https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/waste-scotland-regulations-2012-ssi-no-148-of-2012-lex-faoc116664/?q=Waste+%28scotland%2%A8%29+Regulations+&xdate_min=1973&xdate_max=2017

169 https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/producer-responsibility-obligations-packaging-waste-regulations-2007-si-no-871-of-2007-lex-faoc077353/?q=Producer+Responsibility+Obligations+%28Packaging+Waste%29+Regulations+2007&xdate_min=&xdate_max=

170 <https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/producer-responsibility-obligations-packaging-waste-regulations-northern-ireland-2007-sr-no-198-of-2007-lex-faoc082482/?q=Producer+Responsibility+Obligations+%28Packaging+Waste%29+Regulations+2007+and+Producer+Responsibility+Obligations+%28Packaging+Waste%29+Regulations+%28Northern+Ireland%29+2007>

171 <http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/cleanneighbour/flytipping/?lang=en>

172 <http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/100621wastetowardszeroen.pdf>

173 <http://www.fishingforlitter.org.uk/what-is-fishing-for-litter>



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