



# SEAS AT RISK

for the protection and restoration of the marine environment

## Reducing the use of plastic to save the seas

**Challenging the status quo in the face of irreversible  
environmental damage**

Marine Litter – Europe's answers to a global problem  
European Parliament 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016

# Marine litter – why?

Indiscriminate use of a durable material in low value applications without a thought for its recovery

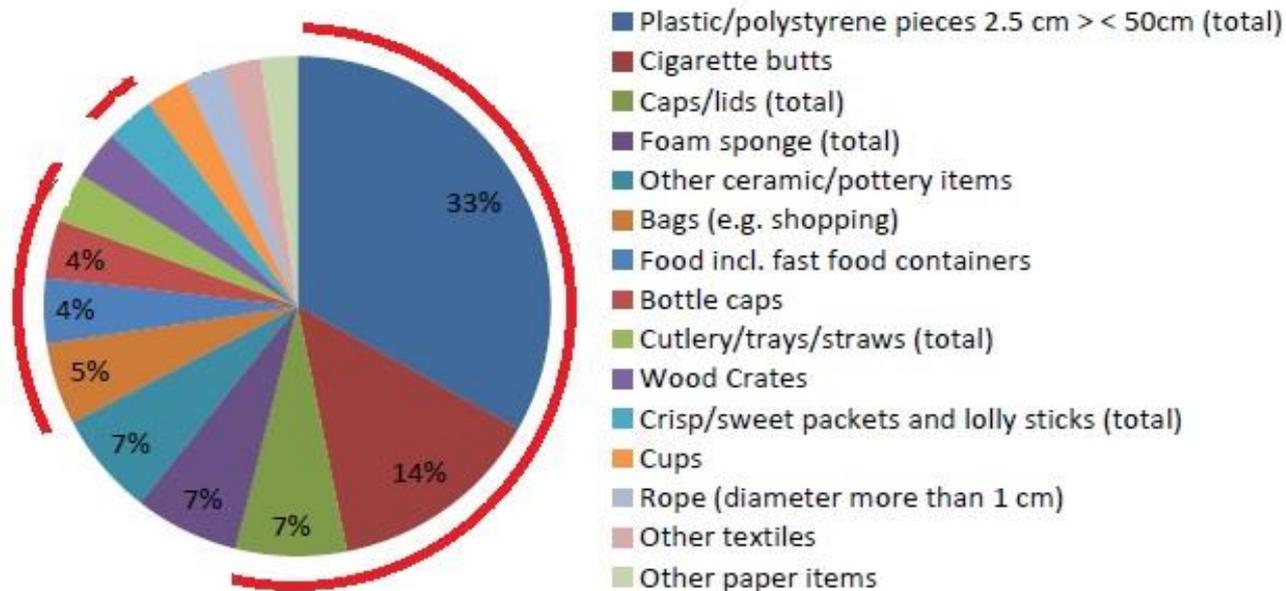


Figure 3: Top fifteen beach litter items for the Baltic Sea, based on 152 OSPAR screenings.

Taken from: Arcadis for the European Commission, Impact Assessment for the headline marine litter reduction target (2014)

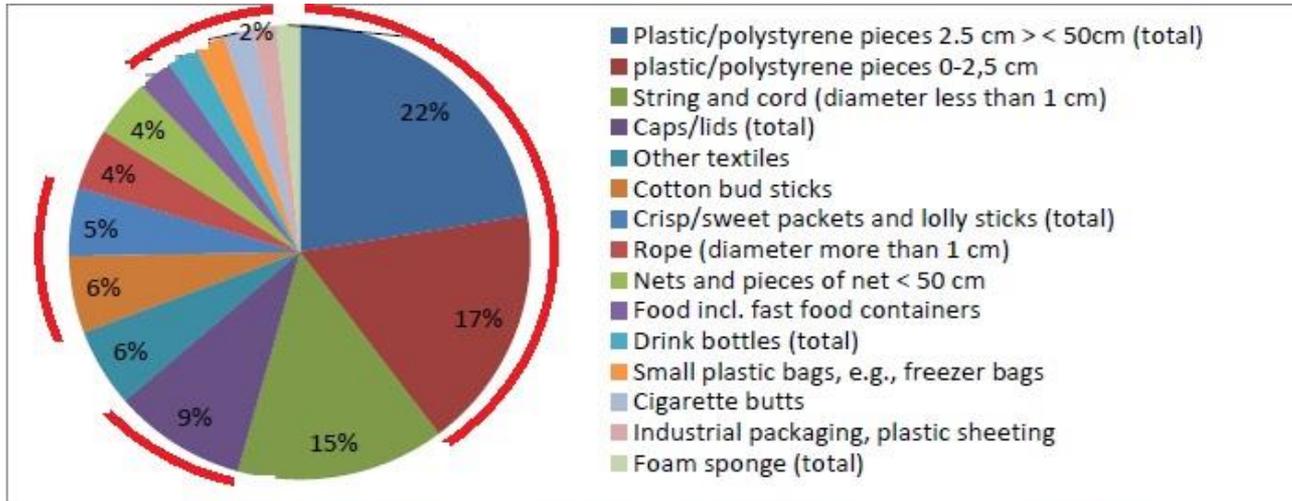


Figure 6: Top fifteen beach litter items for the North Sea, based on 151 OSPAR screenings.

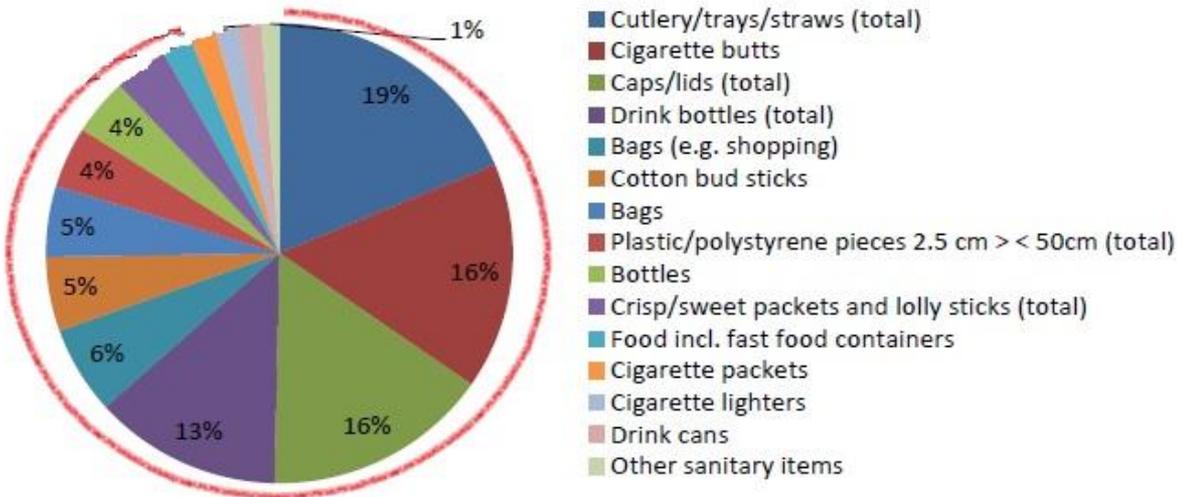


Figure 5: Top fifteen beach litter items for the Mediterranean Sea, based on 33 OSPAR screenings.

# Do we always need these plastic items?





# The status quo must be challenged

- Global plastic production will increase
- Fast moving consumer goods sector will grow
- Waste to energy is an acceptable end of life option for plastic
- Single use items are hygienic and pro poor

**Around the world municipalities, small island communities and forward thinking cities are implementing alternatives to low value plastics to save their environment and avoid the use of incineration and landfill to manage waste.**



# European Action

- Existing marine litter legislation does not provide tools for tackling land based sources and the most problematic items.
- Ambitious European marine litter targets are needed to drive political will in member states, and ensure continued monitoring programmes and research.
- EU must accept that current patterns of plastic usage are unsustainable
- We need:
  - High recycling targets for plastic
  - Product policy that ensures all products are made to be durable, reusable, repairable or recyclable
  - Regulations that ensure that when plastic is used it is free from harmful additives and designed to be easily recyclable
  - Stop thinking of waste to energy as a circular solutions. It is a blockage to innovation and waste reduction
  - Ban the most problematic and unnecessary plastic items (Plastic bags, microbeads, plastic catering items)
  - Material substitution and looking to the past for answers
  - Deposits on beverage containers and a move towards more public water fountains
  - Residual waste targets that ensure waste generations is reduced over time

Thank you for listening

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