



Turkish Plastics Industry Foundation

## Marine Litter Solutions

### ▪ Marine litter is a global challenge

Marine litter is a global challenge that affects the world's oceans, seas and rivers, harming wild life, fisheries and tourism. At the 2012 Rio+20 conference, world leaders committed "to take action to, by 2025, achieve significant reductions in marine debris". In July 2014, the European Commission proposed an "aspirational target of reducing marine litter by 30% by 2020 for the ten most common types of litter found on beaches, as well as for fishing gear found at sea". These targets are the basis for regional Action Plans on Marine Litter for the four European seas which suggest improvements in waste management, change in human behaviour, but also product changes.

### ▪ The plastics industry takes action globally

Plastics organisations from around the world committed in 2011 to contribute to solutions and set up a 'Global Action Plan for Solutions to Marine Litter'. Today the coalition supports more than 185 projects in 34 countries – varying from beach clean-ups to improving waste management, from global research to awareness and education campaigns – that are either planned, underway or completed. Many plastics organisations are working in collaboration with civil society and other public sector actors to tackle this global issue. See: [www.marinelittersolutions.eu](http://www.marinelittersolutions.eu). PAGEV is the architect and one of the starring characters of this project.

### ▪ Our Vision: No waste entering the oceans

Plastics are too valuable to be thrown away and any waste entering the oceans is unacceptable. We give priority to actions that prevent plastics from ending up in rivers, seas and oceans, but also on land, for example by expanding waste collection capacities in sensitive areas (such as harbours, coastal and touristic areas) through projects like *Vacances Propres*, by promoting responsible people behaviour through projects like MARLISCO, by supporting proper pellet containment along the plastic value chain as a member of the global *Operation Clean Sweep* initiative, or by being a direct collaborator through an observer status to the Regional Seas conventions. We believe the Circular Holding the presidency of MEA&Turkey for WFO (Waste Free Oceans), we collect marine litters using an engineered net and recycle them, especially in Turkey, Middle East and Africa.

### ▪ Preventing microplastics from entering our oceans

Microplastics derive from diverse sources: mainly from larger plastics breaking down into smaller fragments, but microplastics may also come from consumer care products. We support the voluntary efforts of personal care product companies to phase out the intentional addition of plastic microbeads. We urge policy makers to

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support the search for sustainable alternatives that consider safety, efficiency and product stability. We also support research at UN-level in order to better understand sources, fate and impact of microplastics on the marine environment and to develop solutions.

### Key recommendations:

#### 1. Raise awareness about the effects of littering

To make citizens understand the negative effects of littering and how to act responsibly, we focus our activities on information and education.

#### 2. Proper waste management is key to reduce littering

Improving waste management – so that all plastic waste is collected and then either recycled or used for energy production – is a key factor to decrease litter. Governments need to integrate the issue of marine litter in their national waste management strategies. The landfilling of all recyclable and other recoverable waste should be banned in Turkey by 2025 at the latest.

#### 3. Avoid short cuts – product bans are not the solution

It is important to acknowledge that a ban on a specific product, whatever it is made of, will not solve the marine litter problem, while proper human behaviour, advanced waste management systems and landfill bans prove they do.



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