




3 December 2025,
Cairo, Egypt

Ministers,

With COP24 of the Barcelona Convention currently taking place in Cairo from December 2 to 5, we - organisations, scientists, associations, citizens, and engaged stakeholders - are writing to you **to call for urgent, ambitious, and coordinated action to stop the plastic crisis devastating our shared sea.**

Our sea, the cradle of civilisations, is suffocating under plastic. The **Mediterranean**, semi-enclosed and bordered by highly urbanised areas, is **now one of the most polluted seas in the world.** The figures are alarming and demand a response commensurate with the urgency of the situation. Each year, 230,000 tonnes of plastic waste are discharged into the Mediterranean –around 730 tonnes per day. The seabed has reached record levels: at its deepest point, Calypso Deep, the average density is 26,715 pieces of debris per km², 88% of which are plastic. More than 7 million tonnes of plastics (macro, micro and nano) have already accumulated in the basin, the equivalent in weight of 350 billion plastic bottles. This volume could double by 2040 without major action. The situation is all the more serious because any plastic released into the Mediterranean remains trapped there, contaminating fauna, flora and—through the infiltration of microfibres, chemical additives and endocrine disruptors—human health itself.

Science is unequivocal: we have crossed seven of the nine planetary boundaries, including the threshold for pollution by “novel entities” (chemical substances and synthetic plastics). **Crossing this boundary is not merely a waste-management challenge; it is a systemic risk to ecosystem stability, the climate, and food security.**



The troubling failure to reach an ambitious consensus during the latest round of international negotiations for a global plastics treaty, held in Geneva last August, must not paralyse us. On the contrary, it requires Mediterranean countries to show leadership and unity at regional level. Plastics know no borders: no Mediterranean country can act alone. Cooperation is not an option; it is a vital necessity.

When global multilateralism fails to deliver concrete results, it falls to regions such as the Mediterranean to take the lead and embody ambitious cooperation.

We, the undersigned, call on ministers to place on the agenda of the Cairo Summit **an ambitious regional action plan for a plastic-free Mediterranean** based on six major commitments:

1. **Official recognition:** Declare the plastic crisis a Regional Environmental Emergency.
2. **Unwavering support for the international treaty on plastic pollution:** Affirm strong support for the treaty, with the commitment to sign and ratify it upon its adoption.
3. **Binding reduction targets:** Commit to reducing the production and use of virgin plastics, incorporating health, toxicity and exposure concerns linked to hazardous substances in plastics; and to cutting plastic discharges into the sea by at least 50% by 2030, with quantified and verifiable national targets.
4. **Regional transparency and monitoring:** Establish a regional mechanism for monitoring and transparency, including a shared database on plastic flows (macro and micro) and the mandatory annual publication of results.
5. **Solidarity-based financing:** Create a Mediterranean fund for plastic prevention and depollution, dedicated to supporting the most vulnerable countries and local authorities, strengthening waste-management infrastructure, and financing research and field action.
6. **Cross-cutting integration:** Integrate plastic pollution prevention into all sectoral public policies (tourism, fisheries, maritime transport, industry, urban planning, and health).

The Mediterranean is a living heritage of humanity. Preserving it means safeguarding biodiversity, health, and the economic stability of the millions of people who depend on it.

Ministers, history will remember what you decide in Cairo. You have the opportunity to make this Summit a turning point—to show the world that Mediterranean cooperation is synonymous with courage, solidarity, inspiration and environmental innovation.

We ask you to make the **Cairo Summit a moment of genuine commitment: not one more declaration, but a binding, measurable and monitored agreement in service of a living, clean and sustainable sea.**

The Mediterranean unites us; we must not allow plastic to divide or destroy it.

With our deepest respect and hope,

The signatories



Parlementarians of ICEPP (Interparliamentary Coalition to End plastic pollution) :

- Philippe Bolo, member of Parliament 🇫🇷
- Jimmy Pahun, member of Parliament 🇫🇷
- Grégory Allione, EU member of Parliament 🇪🇺
- Amira Saber, senator 🇸🇩
- Sahar Albazar, member of Parliament 🇸🇩
- Riadh Jaidane, member of Parliament 🇹🇳
- Najat Aoun Saliba, member of Parliament 🇱🇧
- Alexandra Attelides, senator 🇨🇾
- Josep Rull I Andreu, President of the Parliament of Catalonia





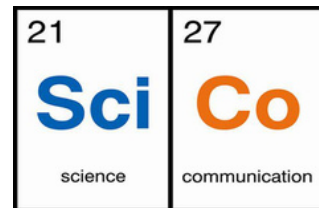
Rezero



POLSKIE STOWARZYSZENIE
**ZERO
WASTE**



reloop resources
remain
resources



**ASSOCIATION
ZERO
WASTE
SKHIRAT**
زبل ضياع
ZBEL DAYA3
DECHET GASPI!



Civil society:

- Marie Le Texier, founder of ConsultantSeas

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