

GRENELLE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Work Group # 3: To establish a health respecting environment

PROPOSAL

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1. Initiative Measure: To reduce litter in rivers, oceans, and on coastlines

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IV. Motivations: Litter can be defined as waste that is visible to the naked eye. Floating or immersed litter are essentially: plastic wrap, plastic particles, metallic waste, paper cartons, woods, textile waste, ceramic waste, containers, rubber waste, sanitary and medical waste, fishing gear, and excrements. They are all detrimental, polluting, dangerous, or toxic for marine organisms, the quality of the marine environment, professional fishing activities, nautical activities, for everybody who uses the beach, and for the biodiversity of the foreshore.

Since 2000 and the beginning of an observatory program at the OSPAR Convention, the reduction of the quantity and variety of waste along the north European Atlantic coastline has not been noted. Even though uncertainties exist on the subject, there is an increasing trend, notably for agricultural and aquaculture wastes and lost cargoes.

4. Description of the Proposal:

1-Upstream

The takeoff and loss of wastes from dumps and storage centers during the transport of waste need to be controlled.

The diffused wastes accumulated in canals, port basins, ox bow, dam reserves, sills, and other hydraulic works need to be integrated in the collection of all types of wastes. Regular trapping and collecting operations need to be carried out by.

The contribution of dredging in the remobilization of litter needs to be examined.

The receipt and collection of food waste and other various wastes around or along water bodies need to be renovated and reinforced.

An analogous effort needs to be undertaken in picnic sites and road rest area networks, notably in river and coastline sectors.

Networks of water treatment and purification and storm basins need to improve litter containment.

Informational efforts need to be directed towards the public, notably tourists, and waste managers, to reduce the dispersal of trash and sanitary litter, such as cotton end sticks, condoms, tampons and butts.

Releasing balloons should be forbidden.

After flooding periods, the concerned regions and countries need to quantify, and take measures to retain or recuperate the wastes carried to the mouths of coastal rivers and into the sea.

The trash and storage of specialized factories fabricating plastic materials, notably polystyrene granules, need to be made the object of specific surveillance along with the collecting and sorting of polystyrene waste.

Education and management efforts need to be directed towards aquaculture and shellfish farming professions to avoid the dumping of waste from professional activities.

2-Downstream

Seals of approval or distinction attributed to beaches or sets of beaches need to take the foreshore capability to contribute to biodiversity into consideration.

Pleasure, commercial, military, and fishing ports need to continually improve their capabilities to receive, stock, and unstock operational and domestic wastes originating from all types of ships; they need also to recuperate floating objects, and to prevent the takeoff and overflow of wastes by appropriate technical means. Cooperation between the fishing communities, communal and intermunicipal collection syndicates, waste processing companies, and decentralized state services should encourage sea fishermen, by practical measures and possible financial prompts, to systematically recuperate at sea wastes among them fishing gears to ports, insofar as they do not constitute a security danger for the ship.

The effectiveness, clarity, and understanding by ship crews of Annex V of the international convention MARPOL on restrictions and bans on waste released from ships must be verified. If necessary this annex should be improved.

The compliance of each ship to register its waste management according to instructions in Annex V of MARPOL needs to be the object of attentive examination by state port authorities.

The waste management plan for each pleasure boat also eventually needs to be implemented by port authorities or city waste services where the port is located.

France needs to affirm it's innovative and cooperative with neighboring countries and shipping actors in the frame of the OSPAR Convention for the protection of the marine environment of the Northeast Atlantic, and in equivalent Mediterranean conventions.