

# CUTTING EDGE SUSTAINABLE MARINE LITTER MANAGEMENT FOR A COMPETITIVE EUROPE



**Conference and Exhibition • November 29, 2010**

Committee of the Regions  
Van Maerlant building, room VM1  
2, rue Van Maerlant  
1040 Brussels



**OVERALL GOAL:** To bring to the attention of policy-makers the work being implemented at local/regional level by authorities and stakeholders in order to develop strategic principles for sustainable marine litter management and beach cleaning. The EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive is a guide to proper management to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe. It aims to achieve good environmental status of the EU's marine waters by 2020 and to protect the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend. The Marine Strategy Framework Directive constitutes the vital environmental component of the Union's future maritime policy, designed to achieve the full economic potential of oceans and seas in harmony with the marine environment.

**OBJECTIVE OF THE EVENT:** Principles for sustainable marine litter management are a pre-requisite for a sustainable, competitive Europe. Substantial work regarding the promotion of quality in sustainable marine litter management has been carried out widely through the development of policies, measures and actions at European local/regional level.

It is important to find solutions in the short term and the long term for marine litter and the threat to the tourist industry as well as a good environment for housing.

In the short term – how do we finance beach cleaning in EU? In the long term – start to deal with the problem of marine litter at its roots.

Triple-helix cooperation within this field has proved to offer great advantages. This conference is organised by Tillväxtsekretariatet Norra Bohuslän, the County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Region Västra Götaland and West Sweden.

**Contact persons:** anders.carlberg@vgregion.se and elsie.hellstrom@stromstad.se

**DELEGATES:** European, national, local and regional stakeholders and decision-makers involved in good, marine-related economic, ecological and social activities and organisation as well as finance, production, education and industry.

**EXHIBITORS:** The Region and Municipalities of Västra Götaland, partners, and other organizations/institutions invited (companies, universities, European institutions), working on projects for good marine and coastal environment and regional/local growth policies.

**CONCEPT:** The event is an opportunity to share with other stakeholders and the EU institutions the regional activities and policies related to the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and marine litter management and coastal environment, as well as best practice and the identification of future needs, working areas and priorities of the European regions.

The exhibition will include:

- Presentations of projects/activities (stands for different projects)
- Visual presentation (video corner and photo exhibition)

# PROGRAMME

**November 29, 2010**

08:30 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 12:30

## PLENARY SESSION

*Conference moderator:* Anders Carlberg, Region Västra Götaland

### **Welcome address from the Committee of the Regions**

Steen Illeborg, Director for Registry

### **The County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland**

Lars Bäckström, Governor of Västra Götaland

### **Swedish Environmental Protection Agency**

Björne Olsson, Head of the Marine Environment Unit

#### **Theme 1 Plastics, the environment and human health**

Dr Richard Thompson, Professor, School of Marine Science and Engineering, University of Plymouth

#### **Theme 2 Impacts of marine debris – economic and social costs to coastal communities**

John Mouat, KIMO (Local Authorities International Environmental Organisations)

#### **Marine litter in the Mediterranean**

Dr Thomais Vlachogianni, MIO-ECSD, The Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development

#### **Marine debris – a threat to Europe's coastal environment and seas**

Leo de Vrees, Policy Officer, DG Environment, European Commission

#### **Summary**

12:30 – 14:00

## EXHIBITION • LUNCH

14:00 – 16:00

## WORKSHOPS

### **Workshop 1 Marine litter – a threat to coastal attractiveness for residents and visitors**

Moderator: John Mouat, Rapporteurs: Anders Svedberg, The West Sweden Tourist Board/ Elsie Hellström, Tillväxtsekretariatet Norra Bohuslän

### **Workshop 2 What do we know and what do we need to know ...**

Moderator: Richard Thompson, Rapporteur: Per Nilsson, The Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment

### **Workshop 3 The role of marine litter in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and other legislation**

Moderator: Björne Olsson, Rapporteur: Lena Tingström, The County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland

*Coffee will be served during the workshops*

16:00 – 17:00

## **Workshop Summaries. Conclusion.**

Closing Remarks by Region Västra Götaland/The County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland