

# PLASTIC POLLUTION IN OUR OCEAN

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM AND WHAT CAN BE  
DONE ABOUT IT?

## A PUBLIC DEBATE

Between 4 and 12 million tons of plastic end up in the ocean every year. That is equivalent to about one shipping container filled with plastic dumped into the ocean every minute. Once in the ocean, plastic doesn't disappear. Ocean currents and winds carry it to every corner of the planet and, on top of that, it often takes hundreds of years to decompose, accumulating in the water column or on the seafloor – often with deadly consequences. Up to 1,400 different species are affected by marine litter: they get entangled or injured by rubbish or confuse plastic with food. Once in the food chain, plastic threatens not only animals, but perhaps also humans.

We invite you to join us to learn more about what science and society are doing to understand the problem and to discuss what options there are to find a solution. Ask your questions to scientists and experts in the field. Visit the Ocean Plastics Lab, a free exhibition on the Esplanade Solidarność 1980, outside the European Parliament.

**11/4/2018**

**7 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Royal Belgian Institute  
for Natural Sciences

Rue Vautier 29,  
1000 Brussels

## PROGRAMME

- **DR PATRICK ROOSE**  
Director for Natural Environments, Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences
- **DR CARL VAN COLEN**  
Marine Ecologist, JPI Oceans PLASTOX project, Ghent University
- **DR CAMILLA C. CARTENY**  
Marine Biologist, JPI Oceans EPHEMARE project, University of Antwerp
- **DR SAMANTHA BURGESS**  
Head of European Marine Policy, WWF European Policy Office
- **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

AN INITIATIVE OF THE



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

**KDM**  
Konsortium Deutsche Meeresforschung  
German Marine Research Consortium



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