

## Press Release

Brussels, 17-03-2016

### Press Contact

PlasticsEurope AISBL

Nuria Buezas

Communications and Media Manager

Phone: +32 (2) 675 1757

nuria.buezas@plasticseurope.org

### Open and inclusive debate launched on Marine Litter

## PolyTalk 2016: Towards Zero Plastics to the Oceans

*What do we know about marine litter? What policies are being implemented to prevent marine litter and create a circular economy? What is the role of the plastics industry in reducing marine litter?*

These and other equally challenging questions were on the agenda of PolyTalk 2016, a two day conference organised by PlasticsEurope in Brussels on 16-17 March. With the title “Zero Plastics to the Oceans” the summit gathered more than 250 high-level representatives from the world of politics, industry, media, NGOs, science and academia to discuss solutions to marine litter.

“Marine litter is a global challenge that needs a global solution. No plastic waste should enter the environment” said Patrick Thomas, CEO of Covestro and President of PlasticsEurope.

“Leading plastics producers in Europe and around the world are working together to find solutions to protect the environment. To date, more than 60 associations in 34 countries have signed the plastics industry’s global declaration, through which 185 projects have been planned, initiated or completed since its launch in 2011” he stated.

“Marine litter is a complex subject and measures to tackle it need to apply both at sea and on land. We have to solve the problem but also understand there is an opportunity to develop new and better ways of managing our industrial activities” said Daniel Calleja Crespo, Director General of DG Environment at the European Commission.

Andrew Morlet, CEO of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation acknowledged the industry’s efforts in the area of marine litter. “Plastics should never become waste. We can drastically reduce the leakage of plastics into natural systems if we apply the circular economy principles” he said.

Solutions at regional level were highlighted by Bart Tommelein, Secretary of State for the North Sea, Federal Government, Belgium, who explained the efforts made at local level in the North Sea.

The conference also provided a snapshot of some of the most exciting innovations being developed to reduce litter.

---

#### Editors’ note

PlasticsEurope is one of the leading European trade associations with centres in Brussels, Frankfurt, London, Madrid, Milan and Paris. We are networking with European and national plastics associations and have more than 100 member companies, producing over 90% of all polymers across the EU28 member states plus Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. The European plastics industry makes a significant contribution to the welfare in Europe by enabling innovation, creating quality of life to citizens and facilitating resource efficiency and climate protection. More than 1.45 million people are working in more than 62,000 companies (mainly small and medium sized companies in the converting sector) to create a turnover around 350 bn EUR per year. The plastics industry includes polymer producers - represented by PlasticsEurope, converters - represented by EuPC - and machine manufacturers - represented by EUROMAP.

For further info see the web links: [www.plasticseurope.org](http://www.plasticseurope.org), [www.plasticsconverters.eu](http://www.plasticsconverters.eu), [www.euromap.org](http://www.euromap.org).

## About PolyTalk

PolyTalk is a multi-stakeholder forum organised by the plastics industry to engage with key actors on relevant societal issues in a transparent and constructive dialogue to debate, act and change.

---

### Editors' note

*PlasticsEurope is one of the leading European trade associations with centres in Brussels, Frankfurt, London, Madrid, Milan and Paris. We are networking with European and national plastics associations and have more than 100 member companies, producing over 90% of all polymers across the EU28 member states plus Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. The European plastics industry makes a significant contribution to the welfare in Europe by enabling innovation, creating quality of life to citizens and facilitating resource efficiency and climate protection. More than 1.45 million people are working in more than 62,000 companies (mainly small and medium sized companies in the converting sector) to create a turnover around 350 bn EUR per year. The plastics industry includes polymer producers - represented by PlasticsEurope, converters - represented by EuPC - and machine manufacturers - represented by EUROMAP.*

For further info see the web links: [www.plasticseurope.org](http://www.plasticseurope.org), [www.plasticsconverters.eu](http://www.plasticsconverters.eu), [www.euromap.org](http://www.euromap.org).