



NEWS RELEASE **UNDER EMBARGO until 08.23.19 –**

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#OCEANCALLFORG7

MORE THAN 50 ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONALITIES ARE MOBILIZED WITH SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE TO MAKE THE OCEAN A CONCERN AT THE INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATING TABLE OF THE G7 SUMMIT

23 August 2019. In support of President Macron's aspiration for an "inclusive" Biarritz G7, Surfrider Foundation Europe has organized this week the "Ocean Pavilion", a pre-summit for Ocean protection. After 4 days of workshops and conferences, bringing together international scientific and economic experts, top-level sportsmen and women and civic representatives, the association announced today the ["Ocean Call"](#) (the link will be available at 8:30 pm but the document is attached). **This advocacy, co-signed by about fifty organizations, has a dual objective: on the one hand, to present the commitments of the stakeholders present during the Ocean Pavilion; on the other hand, to submit concrete proposals to decision-makers.***

Surfrider Europe and the signatories of the Ocean Call are thrilled to announce today that the Ocean Call will be included among the documents reviewed and considered during G7 negotiations, and now expect concrete actions from the G7 leaders, as well as a quick and effective implementation of the measures proposed. The health of the

ocean, the main climate regulator and producer of half of the oxygen on Earth, depends on it.

"The collective approach initiated by Surfrider Foundation Europe makes it possible not only to unanimously call upon the G7 members to make the ocean a priority, but also encourages many players to make commitments. By signing the Ocean Call, all are mobilized today to preserve marine resources, maintain the Ocean's ability to regulate the climate and thereby contribute to safeguarding the future of our planet."

Florent Marcoux, Director of Surfrider Foundation Europe

Encouraging the major powers to take part in the fight for Ocean conservation

Through their active participation in the pre-summit "Ocean Pavilion" and their joint advocacy entitled "Ocean Call", all the partners of Surfrider Foundation Europe wish to encourage the G7 member countries to apply concrete policies to address **four major challenges**:

1. To promote sustainable tourism, water sports and recreational activities with a low environmental impact as opportunities to connect with a protected ocean.
2. To ensure Ocean biodiversity and ecosystems are protected and preserved.
3. To reduce plastic production and consumption and fight against plastic pollution in order to protect the oceans.
4. To maintain and restore the ocean's health for a protected climate.

The association submitted today **a complete and ambitious action programme** to the group of seven with the aim of adopting measures in order to **ensure the Ocean's resilience in the face of many threats** such as pollution, acidification, climate change, and the irreversible loss of biodiversity.

Stakeholders committed to the preservation of the Ocean will cover a large scope of action

In addition to their interpellation approach, the participants in the "Ocean Pavilion" used this opportunity for dialogue and reflection to **formalize concrete commitments at their**

Individual level. Local authorities, companies, research actors, NGOs... All of these participants worked on actions which will be implemented promptly.

This will involve for example **reducing plastic waste, preventing discharge of pollutants at sea, preserving and restoring marine ecosystems, reducing the impact of maritime transport** and **fostering sustainable finance**. Other projects supporting **scientific research** and **citizen information** are also included in the list of commitments.

The Ocean, a fundamental resource for humanity as a whole

The Ocean is home to a significant part of our planet's biodiversity and plays a major role in climate regulation. It covers more than two-thirds of the planet's surface and contains 97 % of our water. A source of well-being, energy, food and employment, **the Ocean plays a key role in our development and contributes some 3 000 billion dollars per year to the global economy**. No less than 90 % of goods worldwide are now transported by sea. **Fishery resources provide more than 15 % of their food to 4.3 billion individuals** and coastal areas provide essential services to local communities. Around the world, **almost 3 out of 4 humans live by the sea**, which is a source of enjoyment for all.

However, human activities are significantly harming our seas and affecting marine life and ecosystems, as well as the resilience of the ocean's ability to provide crucial ecosystem services. Beyond the importance of having a healthy ocean for climate regulation, this degradation also affects the health and well-being of all.

According to Florent Marcoux, Director of Surfrider Foundation Europe:
"The increasing fragility of the Ocean is a major factor of social inequality, a central subject of discussions at this G7. Through our advocacy, we submit concrete proposals to political leaders. We therefore expect them to make strong commitments for the preservation of the Ocean, at this Biarritz Summit and at the forthcoming international events in 2019 and 2020."

You can find the details of the Ocean Call and commitments of the stakeholders as an attachment.

They are all available for interviews.

*** The signatories of the Ocean Call:**

Alliance of Solwara Warriors, ANJEC – Local Environment Matters, OceanCare, Azul, BeMed – Beyond Plastic Med, Bizi!, Blue Flag, Break Free From Plastic, By the Ocean we Unite, Center of International Environmental Law (CIEL), Children for the Oceans, Clean Ocean Action, ClientEarth, Coalition Clean Baltic, Confédération mondiale des activités subaquatiques (CMAS), Coral Guardian, Deep Sea Mining Campaign, EcoPel - Environmental Coalition of the Pelhams, EIA (Environmental Investigation Agency), European Anglers Alliance, European Network of Outdoor Sports (ENOS), European Surfing Federation, European Triathlon Union, FracTracker Alliance, Friends of the Earth Europe, Fundación Malpelo Colombia, Gaia, Global Ocean Trust, Hawaii Wildlife Fund, HFO-FREE ARCTIC, Inland Ocean Coalition, Lonely Whale, MIO-ECSDE, New Economics Foundation, NGO Shipbreaking Platform, Ocean & Climate platform, Ocean As Common, Ocean Unite, Ocean Voyages Institute, OKEANOS Foundation, Our Fish, Plastic Pollution Coalition, Plastic Soup Foundation, Project Aware, Rame pour ta planète, Save Our Shores, Save The Waves Coalition, Seas at Risk, Surfers Against Sewage, Surfrider Foundation Europe et son réseau international, The Ocean Foundation, The Story of Stuff Project, Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), Wildcoast COSTASALVAJE, Zero Waste Europe, Zero Waste Washington.

The "Ocean Pavilion partners:

Agence de l'Eau Adour-Garonne, Break Free From Plastic Movement, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire, Ocean & Climate platform, Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Seas at Risk, Ville d'Anglet.

About Surfrider Foundation Europe

Surfrider Foundation Europe was created in 1990 by a group of surfers who wanted to preserve their playground. Grass-roots activism to protect our oceans and coasts is at the core of the organization. Surfrider Foundation Europe is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to protect and showcase the importance of lakes, rivers, the ocean, waves, and coastlines. It currently has over 13,000 members and is active across 11 countries through its volunteer-run branches. For almost 30 years, Surfrider Foundation Europe has been taking action as a recognized authority in 3 areas of expertise: marine litter, water quality and public health, coastal management and climate change.

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