



Federal Ministry for the  
Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety

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For our Environment



## International Conference on Prevention and Management of Marine Litter in European Seas

*Berlin, 10 – 12 April 2013*

# Target Setting: Key Results for Breakout Session A

With the support of





**Plenary statement: An EU wide quantitative marine litter reduction target will help to facilitate commitments by policy makers.**



# Discussion Questions

- Topic 1: What is the **added value** of having an EU wide reduction target for marine litter?
- Topic 2: What **type of targets** you think off as overall target?
- Topic 3: Which are **main concerns** you have regarding target setting for marine litter?
- Topic 4: How can you **overcome** these concerns?



# 1. The added value of an EU-wide target

- Political commitment: A driver in the political sphere that pushes toward action / solutions
- Targets have worked in other fields (e.g. 50% reduction of nutrients to seas)
- EU-wide target addresses transboundary aspect: litter doesn't respect borders
- Signal to global level
  - Credibility for EU
  - Easier for outreach and negotiations with non-EU countries
- Level playing field across EU for industry
- No MS left behind and common accountability for MS
- EU-level target will drive actions in the regional seas and cooperation among the four regional seas
- Promotes sharing of good practices and resources among countries for monitoring
- Encourages cooperation and coordinated actions on marine litter



## 2. Types of targets – a broad range of ideas

### **Generation of marine litter: sources**

- Source-based targets will focus responsibility
- Target reduction most important items of marine litter (e.g. Top 10 found on beaches)
- Product targets: production of both ‘smart’ (good) products and the phasing out of ‘bad’ products
- Eliminate plastics from cosmetics
- Zero input from *all* sources

### **Generation of marine litter: changing behaviour**

- Changing behaviour
- Qualitative targets for education
- 100% elimination of single-use plastic bags



## 2. Types of targets – continued

### **Waste management**

- Recycling at EU level
- Effectiveness of port reception facilities
- Litter from sewage systems

### **Litter present in the environment**

- Targets should address beaches, seabeds and also rivers
- 50% reduction of litter found in the environment
- % reduction in key litter types
- % reduction in impacts

### **Removal**

- Litter amounts collected by fishing



### 3. Main concerns / 4. How to overcome

CONCERNS	HOW TO OVERCOME
<p>Complexity of the problem, including transboundary aspects Balancing achievability and ambition Targets may not be meaningful</p>	<p>Use SMART targets: Simple, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-based</p>
<p>Challenges for monitoring</p>	<p>Identify simple targets</p>
<p>Regional differences</p>	<p>Flexibility to tailor targets to regional context Regional targets needed in addition to EU-wide targets</p>
<p>Lack of coherence across different types of EU legislation</p>	<p>Link to targets in other policy areas (e.g. waste)</p>
<p>Targets need to be responsive to actions / measures</p>	<p>Targets linked to measures: e.g. Recycling levels; reduction in plastic bags</p>



### 3. Main concerns / 4. How to overcome (continued)

CONCERNS	HOW TO OVERCOME
Lack of money / resources for monitoring	EU support...
Neighbouring regional sea countries outside of the EU: less ambition and resources	Regional sea targets Support via EuropeAid
Statistical robustness across regions	Strengthening monitoring
Lack of data is an excuse to not act	Stop saying there is not enough information
Failing to identify core of the problem: will targets lead to reductions in environmental impacts? Marine environment is a litter sink – measures would reduce inputs but not existing litter	More research on environmental impacts





### 3. Main concerns / 4. How to overcome

CONCERNS	HOW TO OVERCOME
Lack of political will	Identify jobs/economic advantages
Risk of lobbying by industry	Bring industry into process – and enforce current measures
Lack of MS implementation towards targets	Sanctions
Consensus may lead to targets that are not ambitious	Allow for variable speeds in achieving targets Phasing in higher targets over time: identify an aspirational long-term target
Baseline issue	Balanced approach: both qualitative and quantitative targets