

Workshop on Riverine Litter

Organised by the Regional Sea Conventions Surrounding Europe
in Partnership with FreeLitterAT

Venue: [Cascais Cultural Center](#), Av. Rei Humberto II de Itália, 2750-642 Cascais

Date: 25 March 2026

This hybrid Workshop/Conference follows the successful workshop on riverine litter jointly organised by the Regional Seas Conventions (RSCs) in May 2024 (Valencia, Spain). This workshop will be of interest to national experts, policy makers and academia working in this field. Workshop participants will be updated on the latest developments in riverine litter monitoring and assessment efforts across each RSCs surrounding Europe.

9:00 – 9:40

Registration and Coffee

9:40 – 10:05

Opening

Hilda de Pablo, Professor in Lusófona University and Researcher in FreeLitterAT Project

Cristina Guerra, Director of the Faculty of Engineering - Lusófona University - Lisbon

Mateus Kowalski, Professor of International Law, Conciliator under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, former Director of Public International Law at the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

10:05 – 10:20

Session 1

Marisa Fernández, CETMAR Project Coordinator: FreeLitterAT Project Presentation

João Monteiro, ARDITI, MARE- Madeira: FreeLitterAT: advance in marine litter monitoring (15 minutes)

10:20 – 11:30

Session 2

Regional and International Frameworks for Addressing Riverine Inputs of Marine Litter

Jennifer Godwin, RSP technical assistance team: Introduction to the session

- **Christos Ioakeimidis**, QSR Programme Management Officer, UNEP/MAP, Barcelona Convention Secretariat (5 mins presentation + 2 mins Q&A)

- **Iryna Makarenko**, PMA Officer, Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat, Bucharest Convention (5 mins presentation + 2 mins Q&A)

- **Marta Ruiz**, Associate Professional Secretary of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission, Helsinki Commission – HELCOM (5 mins presentation + 2 mins Q&A)

- **Jennifer Godwin**, OSPAR's Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Coordination Team, OSPAR Commission (5 mins presentation + 2 mins Q&A)

- **Luis Ruiz**, European Commission Joint Research Centre (5 mins presentation + 2 mins Q&A)

- **Presentations from International Riverine Commissions (TBC)** (5 mins presentation + 2 mins Q&A)

11:30 – 12:30

Session 3

Keynote Speakers

- **Gary Hanko**, Managing director, Hungarian Association of Environmental Enterprises; vice-chair, Plastic Cup Society

Aquatic Plastic: Transboundary Waste Pollution and Solution in the Danube River Basin (15 mins presentation + 5 mins Q&A)

- **Tim van Emmerik**, Associate Professor Hydrologic Sensing, Wageningen University
Setting the scene for rivers as a major pathway for litter transportation (15 mins presentation + 5 mins Q&A)

- **Roberto Crosti**, ISPRA (Italy)

Sharing experiences on monitoring riverine and marine litter, reflecting on interface between the freshwater and marine systems (15 mins presentation + 5 mins Q&A)

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12:30 – 13:45

Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30

Session 4

Progress in Monitoring Efforts to Assess Inputs of Marine Litter via Rivers

Presentation of Guidelines and Selection of countries' best practices from around the four Regional Seas. Discussion on data submission, data repositories etc. Assessment findings

- **Camille Lacroix, Cedre**
Plastic pellet monitoring in rivers
(12 mins presentation + 3 min Q&A)
- **Paul Vriend, Rijkswaterstaat**
Progress on defining collective monitoring of riverine litter in the OSPAR Maritime Area, and OSPAR's pilot assessment planned for 2029
(12 mins presentation + 3 min Q&A)
- **Maiju Lehtiniemi, Syke**
Developing microplastic monitoring for northern rivers
(12 mins presentation + 3 min Q&A)
- **Tiia Möller-Raid, University of Tartu**
Macro- and microlitter monitoring in Estonian rivers. Pärnu river case-study.
(12 mins presentation + 3 min Q&A)
- **Mr. Nouredine Zaaboub, Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer, Tunisia**
Assessment of Riverine Inputs and Coastal Marine Litter through UAVs, Machine Learning, and Data Analysis
(12 mins presentation + 3 min Q&A)
- **Mr Hassan Ouahidi, National Laboratory for Pollution Studies and Monitoring, Morocco**
River Inputs: Monitoring Waste from Two Watercourses Flowing into the Mediterranean
(12 mins presentation + 3 min Q&A)

15:30 – 16:00

Panel 1

Discussion Topic I: Steps towards improved source identification of riverine litter and progress towards the development of measures to address riverine litter

Workshop participants will be asked to share experiences on source identification
(30 min)

16:00 – 16:15

Panel 2

Discussion Topic II: Reflection on conclusions of Valencia workshop in 2024: how far have we come, what still remains to be considered

(15 min)

16:15 – 16:45

Coffee Break

16:45 – 17:00

Panel 3

Discussion Topic III: What is the role of the riverine commissions? What do they need from the marine litter community to support better engagement on this topic?

(15 min)

17:00 – 17:30

Panel 4

Discussion Topic IV: Next steps to address riverine litter

Workshop participants will be asked to contribute and share views on the merits of undertaking a joint riverine litter status assessment across all four RSCs surrounding Europe.
(30 min)

17:30 – 17:45

Meeting Closure

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