



Operation Clean Sweep®

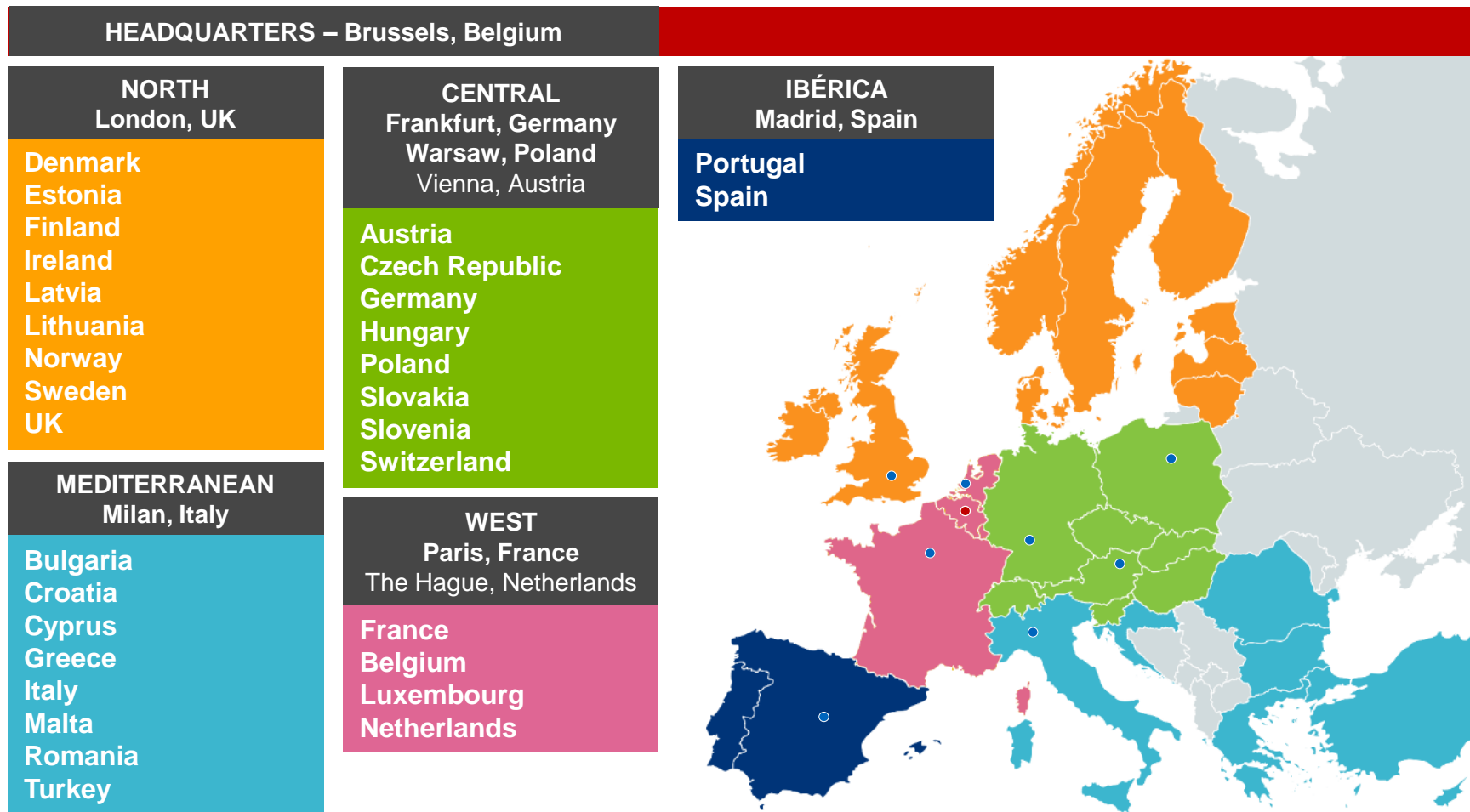
Toward zero pellet loss: it is now or never!

5th February 2020

Jérémy Fouriau – Environmental Affairs Manager

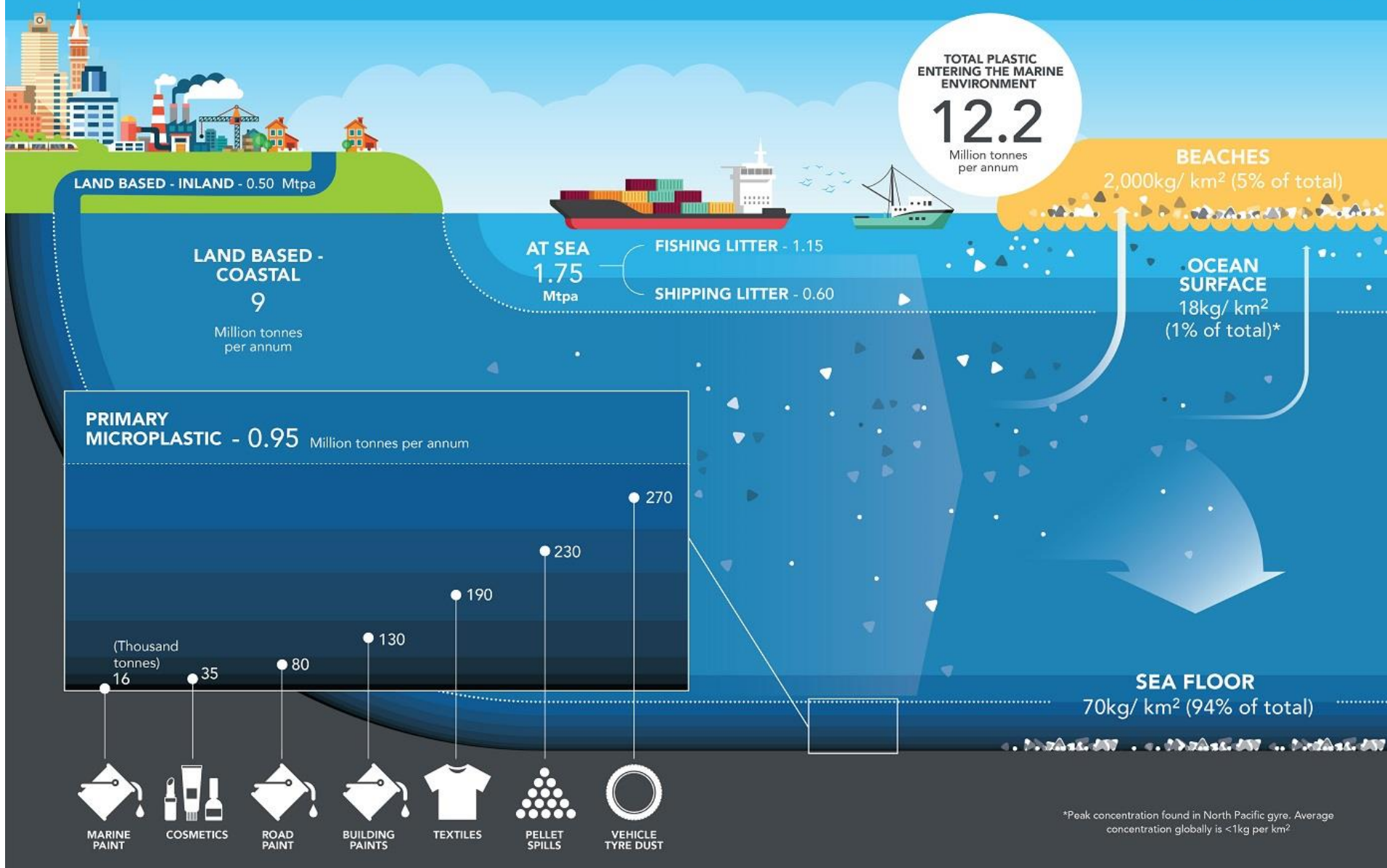
PlasticsEurope
Association of Plastics Manufacturers

PlasticsEurope is the pan-European organisation (with more than 100 member companies) representing the plastics manufacturers at the EU, regional and national level.



PLASTICS IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT: WHERE DO THEY COME FROM? WHERE DO THEY GO?

economia 



- Pellet loss is the **second largest source of primary microplastics**
- Around 2% of all plastics litter entering the environment = pellets
- The plastics industry has a **direct control over pellet loss!**

We all have a role to play!

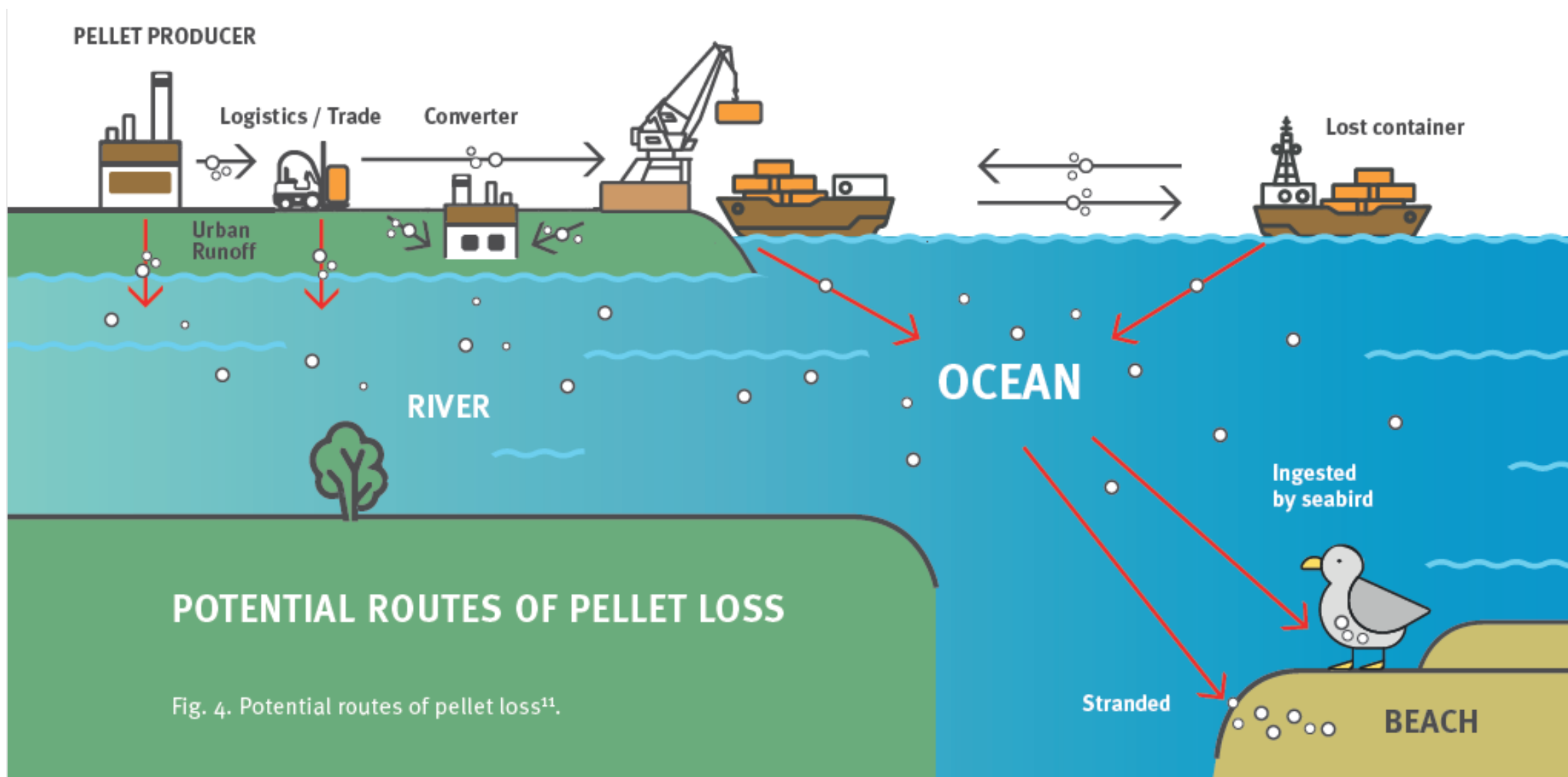


Fig. 4. Potential routes of pellet loss¹¹.

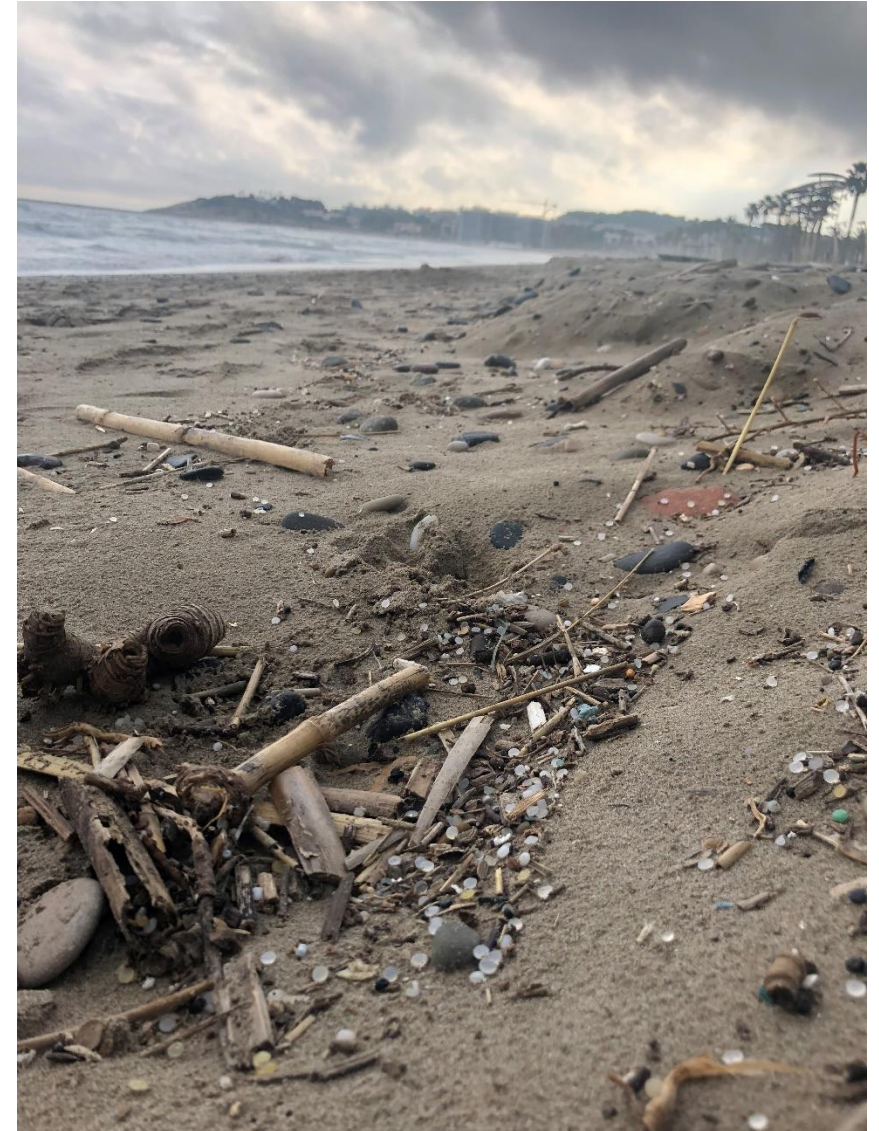
To avoid this...

- Port of Antwerp (Belgium) - 2017



Or this...

- Tarragona (Spain) - 2018



Resulting in this...

Indonesian study into health risks of microplastics

ARTS
The Rhine Is Turning Into River of Plastic
DEC 10, 2013 11:29 AM ET BY GABRIEL J. NGER

Environment > Nature
British marine wildlife threatened by toxic plastic pellets, study says
Research warns that billions of 'nurdles' escape manufacturing plants and distribution trucks and get washed into river

Tom Bowden Environment Editor | @BowdenTom | Saturday 12 March 2016 | 3 comments

NATURAL BORN TROUBLEMAKER

Virgin plastic pellets are the biggest pollution disaster you've never heard of

By Zoë Schlanger • August 19, 2019

Tiny pellets called 'nurdles' are leeching into the ocean. A new Shell plant could produce 80 trillion of them a year.

Aria Bendix Aug. 21, 2019, 9:04 AM



Thousands of plastic nurdles found on Cornish beaches in just two hours during Great Nurdle Hunt

Many fish and sea birds die after eating these plastic pellets

Plastic pellets threaten to bury Scotland's sandy beaches

Local News

Plaintiffs to ask judge to fine Formosa Plastics \$166M for polluting Texas waterways

Posted: Aug 14, 2019 06:21 PM CDT Updated: Aug 14, 2019 06:21 PM CDT

18 June 2017
Issue 377
subscribe to free

The Black Sea via the Danube

- Communication From The Commission To The European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic And Social Committee And The Committee Of The Regions:
A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy (16/01/2018)
- Annex I: List of future EU measures to implement the Strategy

Actions to curb microplastics pollution:	
- start the process to restrict the intentional addition of microplastics to products via REACH	ongoing
- examination of policy options for reducing unintentional release of microplastics from tyres, textiles and paint (e.g. <i>including minimum requirements for tyre design (tyre abrasion and durability if appropriate) and/or information requirement (including labelling if appropriate), methods to assess microplastic losses from textiles and tyres, combined with information (including possibly labelling)/minimum requirements, targeted research and development funding</i>)	ongoing
- development of measures to reduce plastic pellet spillage (e.g. <i>certification scheme along the plastic supply chain and/or Best Available Techniques reference document under the Industrial Emissions Directive</i>)	Q1 2018 onwards
- evaluation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive: assessing effectiveness as regards microplastics capture and removal	ongoing

Pre-production pellets i.e. pellets, powders and flakes

- Under the scope of the restriction
- Under derogations:
 - 4 (a) Mixtures containing microplastics used **at industrial sites**
 - 5 (b) Substances or mixtures where the physical properties of microplastic are permanently modified when the substance or mixture is used such that the polymers no longer fulfil the meaning of a microplastic
- **As a result: labelling & reporting requirements**

→ But... What's next???

Value chain to take action together via Operation Clean Sweep®

- In order to take its responsibility, PlasticsEurope has started to promote OCS in Europe since 2014 with the objective of **zero pellet/powder/flake loss!**
- It is a voluntary **free** initiative **aimed at improving awareness, promoting best practices and providing guidance and tools** to support its signatories in the implementation of the necessary pellet loss prevention measures.
- By signing the OCS pledge, each company handling raw materials recognises the **importance of preventing spillages into the environment** and commits to OCS by implementing the following 6 actions:

1 Improve our worksite(s) set-up to prevent and address spills;

2 Create and publish internal procedures to achieve «zero pellet loss» goals;

3 Provide employee training and accountability for spill prevention, containment, clean-up and disposal;

4 Audit our performance regularly;

5 Comply with all applicable local and national regulations governing pellet containment;

6 Encourage our partners (contractors, transporters, etc.) to pursue the same objectives.

Operation Clean Sweep® is trademarked by PLASTICS Industry Association

➔ EU website: www.opcleansweep.eu



We have all the tools you need to join the programme!

- Many tools can be found on the EU OCS website:
 - Operation Clean Sweep® online manual with many best-practices
 - OCS reports (2017 and 2018)
 - Management Checklists
 - Employee Checklists
 - Communication flyers
- PlasticsEurope provide a welcome pack with additional tools to promote OCS internally & externally:
 - OCS logo
 - Samples of newsletter, articles, press release...
 - Video in several languages
- FIPIF, IKEM and Plast.dk have all signed-up to OCS!



Call for action: it is now or never!

- Unique opportunity: it is our last chance to demonstrate our voluntary commitment to zero pellet loss from the entire value chain!

→ We need you on board!

- We take extra care about gases & chemical losses, why not about pellets?

→ It is good for:

- ✓ Environment
- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Business

Sign-up now to the OCS programme!

- Via the OCS website:

<http://www.opcleansweep.eu/sign-up/>

- Or contact me directly:

jeremy.fouriau@plasticseurope.org



Plastics

The Material for the 21st Century