

ALL ON BOARD FOR HEALTHY WATERS



**EU GREEN WEEK PARTNER EVENT
3RD JUNE 2021 - CONTEXT &
AGENDA**



SURFRIDER
FOUNDATION EUROPE

AGENDA



June 3rd, 2.00 - 3.30

2pm Key note speech: Surfrider ambassador: Greg penne, water sport champion

2.15 Panel Discussion

Why are Healthy Waters important ?

- For well being, Sophie Project (tbc)
- For sports & recreation, WaterSports federation
- For tourism: City of Cassis (France) or Blue Flag (tbc)
- To Protect nature: NGO (European Rivers Network tbc)

Challenges ahead: healthy waters for all

- Algal blooms and chemical pollution
- In urban areas
- For recreational users

What can be done to ensure zero pollution?

- Blue flag international
- Surfrider Europe
- European Commission

3.15 Closing remarks & Happening Delivery of the Manifesto for Healthy Waters

With the participation of European Ocean and Seas Commissioner.

Video being screened with testimonies from over Europe.

3.30 End of Conference

WHO IS PARTICIPATING



This online conference will bring together representatives from water sport federations from across Europe, individual sport enthusiasts, researchers, environmental NGOs, Surfrider ambassadors, local authorities to reflect on what should be done to ensure healthy waters in the EU free from pollution.



CONTEXT



Water quality of our oceans and seas is impacted in many ways by human activities, happening close and far from our coasts, from oil drilling to shipping, aquaculture and directly at the coastal level from land-based activities, resulting from different kind of releases (such as agriculture, industries, local authorities or treatment plants). It is amplified today by an intense coastal urbanisation and search for hydrocarbons. The bacteriological and chemical pollution resulting from these activities is affecting both marine life and ecosystems as well as the resilience of our ocean and impacting our health and our wellbeing.

In 1976, the European Union adopted the first directive ever to safeguard public health and ensure clean bathing water, a key directive often presented as one of the major legislative successes of the EU. This directive was adopted to ensure the quality of bathing water is harmoniously monitored, that management measures are introduced, and that information is made available to the public. In summer, bathing can sometimes be disrupted by episodes of water pollution. One of the main causes are emissions from water treatment plants or factories, which once in the water can be dangerous for health.

This directive was updated and revised in 2006.

The European Commission has started therefore in the past few years discussions to revise the directive. In 2017, the European Commission approached key stakeholders – including SFE- to draft a report, published in April 2019, aiming at assessing EU Member States' compliance with the Bathing Water Directive. On this occasion, key issues and examples of bad compliance, insufficient legislative provisions were identified.

Those discussions are accelerating in 2021. Ahead of this important policy opportunity and as part of its efforts to contribute to the Zero Pollution Action Plan of the Commission, SurfRider Europe wishes to collect and share fresh ideas from civil society organisations with the European Commission on the topic.

HOSTING

For 30 years, Surfrider Foundation Europe has been protecting, safeguarding and enhancing the oceans and the entire population that benefits from them. It acts on a daily basis to fight against damage to the coastal environment and its users.

Surfrider Europe works with all social actors (individual citizens and the public and private sectors) on 3 main issues:

- water quality and health
- marine litter
- coastal adaptation and climate change

SFE is a grassroots organisation based on a network of thousands of passion-driven people who are on the ground and are the voice for our ocean and coasts.

Surfrider has today 46 volunteer chapters active in 12 European countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Switzerland). Surfrider chapters are our boots on the ground, they carry out campaign and awareness raising activities and report back to us any threat to the coastal and marine environment.

in addition to advocacy and legal actions, Surfrider Foundation Europe is also running projects across Europe on citizen science, research including laboratory research and ocean literacy on a wide range of topics from antibioresistance, impacts of pollution on health, rainwater management, bloom algae, public participation, etc.

For more information, visit our website: www.surfrider.eu/en.





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