

CITIZEN CONSULTATION “IT’S BLUEDY TIME, EUROPE!”: EUROPEANS CALLED TO SUPPORT THE OCEAN

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The Blue Up 2024 coalition led by the ocean protection NGO Surfrider Foundation Europe calls on all Europeans to support the 10 demands that emerged from the *It's Bluedy Time Europe!* citizens' consultation, in order to challenge the candidates for the future European elections and make their voices heard. From March 30 to May 9, 2023, the citizens of the Union will be able to support the proposals they want the candidates to put on the European agenda, in view of the elections of spring 2024.

Carrying the citizens' and the Ocean's voice

The coming years will determine the future of our planet: **the EU will make important decisions that will have an impact on the ocean**, whether it is about energy, plastic pollution, maritime transport or fishing. These decisions will engage all European citizens. **Their involvement in civic and democratic life is therefore decisive to build the future.**

During the last European elections, political parties and candidates included more proposals related to the environment in their manifestos and programs, **but few proposals related to the Ocean.**

This is why Surfrider Foundation Europe has launched **the largest citizen consultation** on the oceans, ***It's Bluedy Time Europe!*** with a triple objective: to give them a voice, to bring it to the institutions, and to put the protection of the oceans at the heart of European concerns.

A two-step citizen consultation

***It's Bluedy Time, Europe!* is the largest ocean consultation at European level and the only one that will bring citizens' demands on ocean issues directly to European decision makers before the European elections in 2024.**

During the first phase, which took place from mid-December to the end of February, experts, groups of scientists and citizens involved in protecting the Ocean daily expressed themselves on the www.oceanvoice.eu platform to formulate proposals.

A total of 390 participations or contributions were collected.

What is this second phase about?

The second phase of the *It's Bluedy Time Europe!* citizens' consultation identifies 10 proposals resulting from the suggestions made by European citizens in the first phase:

- 1. Reduce pollution in all its forms**
- 2. Transforming our blue economy to protect the Ocean**
- 3. Mitigating the impacts of climate change on the Ocean and strengthening its resilience and carbon storage capacity**
- 4. Preserving coastal areas in the face of climate change**
- 5. Effectively protect the marine ecosystem through the creation of protected areas**
- 6. Combatting the main causes of marine biodiversity loss**
- 7. Preserving the Ocean and the health of Europeans**
- 8. Reinforcing and monitoring marine pollution at its source**
- 9. Building a more inclusive and sustainable Ocean governance in Europe**
- 10. Giving a voice to coastal populations in the sustainable management of the Ocean in Europe**

[The details of the proposals can be found on the proposals page of
www.oceanvoice.eu](http://www.oceanvoice.eu)

Surfrider Foundation Europe invites European citizens to vote for these proposals, to convey a strong and impactful message to the European institutions.

To do so, they must connect to www.oceanvoice.eu between **March 30 and May 9, 2023**.

All they have to do is support the initiative by liking all 10 proposals with one click.

www.oceanvoice.eu

Each mobilization is another step towards effective and protective European directives for the Ocean!

They talk about their commitment to the citizen consultation

"As a student of environmental science, I deeply care about greenhouse gas emissions and ways to reduce it. I believe citizens can make a change because every small thing and impact matter"

Julianna Szatkiewicz, Poland, Masters in environmental sciences



"As a project officer at Clean Boating I am particularly sensitive to the marine plastic pollution that Mallorca faces. As most of the plastic waste comes from lands, I believe citizens have a major role to ease this issue, as already simple changes can bring significant benefits for the environment and for us."

Luca Jendrek, Hungary, Job specializing in marine plastic pollution in the Med



As a citizen living by the sea, I find myself directly impacted by the activities related to it. The opinion of citizens is therefore essential if we want to identify dysfunctions and points for improvement regarding public policies

Gil Flassch--Trauth, France, Mechatronics engineer



Practical info:

- = *It's Bluedy Time Europe*, a citizen mobilization project for the Ocean, as part of the Blue Up 2024 campaign
- = Support *It's Bluedy Time Europe* on www.oceanvoice.eu
- = From March 30 to May 9, 2023

We are at your disposal for any information or interview requests.

About Surfrider Foundation Europe

The Surfrider Foundation is a collective of positive activists who take concrete action on the ground every day to pass on a preserved ocean to future generations. Our mission: To be the voice of the Ocean! Our weapons? Raising awareness and mobilising citizens, children and adults alike (thanks to 48 volunteer branches throughout Europe), using our scientific expertise to lobby and transform companies. Find out more about the association at <https://surfrider.eu/en> or via [this video](#)

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