



## Charter of Local Authorities

GET INVOLVED FOR A PLASTIC BAG FREE TERRITORY

*Surfrider sincerely thanks you for your involvement in the « Ban the Bag » campaign. By involving your local authority, you support our struggle against plastic pollution of the environment, particularly of oceans and aquatic ecosystems.*

### ACKNOWLEDGING THAT:

- ↘ **Plastic bags are a major but unnecessary source of pollution.** Plastic bags are used only 25 minutes on average, while they take one to four centuries to degrade in the natural environment. 100 billion plastic bags are used every year in Europe, but only 6.6% are recycled. Because of plastic bags' lightness and the lack of proper waste collection systems, plastic bags end up in the ocean and become an important environmental issue.
- ↘ **Plastic bags, once in the environment, cause disastrous effects to ecosystems, fauna, the marine environment and Humans.** Plastic pollution has already entered in the food chain, causing a potential threat to human health.
- ↘ **Plastic bags cost a lot to our territories and inhabitants.**
- ↘ **The end of single-use plastic bags requires important behavioral changes and the involvement of each and every one.** At European level, the European directive 2015/720 asks for the reduction of plastic bags' average consumption in all Member States. **Being the closest entity to citizens, local authorities are key actors to support the transition towards a plastic bag free society.**

### WE COMMIT TO:

- ↘ **Reduce the distribution and consumption of single-use plastic bags in our territory, through the implementation of one or several of these measures:**
  - To support initiatives from civil society towards a plastic bags' reduction.
  - To open a dialogue with stakeholders (elected members, shopkeepers and consumers) in order to contemplate the ban of single-use plastic bags.

- To put on the agenda of our local authority the issue of plastic bags.
- To implement actions aiming at raising awareness among citizens about single-use plastic bags and at promoting reusable bags.
- To implement a tax on single-use plastic bags.
- To implement the ban of single-use plastic bags during events in our territory.
- To implement the ban of single-use plastic bags on our city markets.
- To implement the ban of single-use plastic bags in all our territory.

- **Inform Surfrider Foundation Europe of our actions in favor of a plastic bags' reduction. Exchange and share our experiences and best practices with Surfrider Foundation Europe and other local authorities.**

In return, Surfrider Foundation Europe commits to:

- Assist local authorities in their involvement by providing them tools and support towards the ban of single-use plastic bags.
- Communicate and enhance local authorities' involvement via its network, community, partners and media.

**AND WE INVITE:**

- **other local authorities to join us in the network of committed local authorities and to share their best practices for a plastic bags' reduction.**
- **Superior levels authorities to consider, value and take into account our efforts for the plastic bags' reduction in their respective decisions process.**

« I, [Name of the local authority's representative, function]..... **have been mandated by the** [Name of the local authority, Country] ....., **to sign up the Charter of Local Authorities of Surfrider Foundation Europe which commits my territory towards single-use plastic bags' reduction, in full knowledge of the commitments set out in the Charter.** »

[Name, email and phone number of the contact person].....

..... [Date, Signature]