

# THERE ARE SOLUTIONS TO THE CHALLENGING ISSUE OF MARINE LITTER

## Waste reduction

Good waste management must begin with the prevention of its generation in the first place. Pollution should be prevented at source. Waste that is never produced does not have to be disposed of and cannot become marine litter.

## Improved waste management

Waste should be collected and handled properly, either for reuse and recycling or for environmentally safe disposal. The economic value of waste needs to be underlined in order to move towards a 'zero-waste economy'.

## Waste composition

Not only waste quantity but also waste quality is an issue. Waste should not lead to more dangerous compounds when it decomposes.

## Manufacturer's role

Extended producer responsibility makes a product's manufacturer responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product and especially for its take-back, recycling and final disposal.

## "Design for life cycle"

This approach challenges the product designers to consider the entire life of the product, including its recycling and disposal options.

## Working at all levels

Prevention or remedy actions e.g. clean-ups have to be taken in many locations, through numerous activities and by many committed people. This requires streaming of efforts at local, national and international level.

## Education, information and training

These are vital in any effort towards a more waste-wise society. A tailor-made approach should be used in the different sectors (e.g. tourism, maritime sector, land based industry, etc.) and the general public, to raise the awareness of everyone on the sources and effects of marine litter and the ways of reducing it at source.