

French Solid Waste Partnership Position Paper - UNOC3



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Position paper

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Pollutions travel from land to sea: 80% of plastic pollution in oceans originates on land. To effectively combat marine pollution, the most sustainable investment is Ecologically Sound Management (ESM) of waste, which includes source reduction, recovery and treatment. This approach is based on rigorous waste stream control, while protecting human health and the environment.

For plastics, as for other wastes, priority must be given to reducing their production and reusing them, then to recycling and final treatment in compliance with ESM, as defined by the Basel Convention. Effective recovery depends, among other things, on the implementation of eco-design and the existence of markets for the secondary materials produced: it's a life cycle approach.

Reducing plastic waste generation is based on the implementation of the circular economy hierarchy (which begins with "Refuse"...). This hierarchy



“To combat marine pollution, the most sustainable investment is ESM of waste”

of actions implies a deep transformation of production and consumption patterns, and the implementation of new economic models which, although underway, are coming up against various forms of resistance requiring ever closer collaboration between all players in the value chains.

ESM of waste (reduction at source, recovery and treatment) has a cost, even when circularity and the associated revenue streams are established. The environmental benefits of this solution outweigh the costs of its implementation (GWMO 2024). It must be financed by a range of financial instruments involving both public and private stakeholders, so that these avoided costs benefit society as a whole.

Exchanges at UNOC 3 will play a key role in the ongoing drafting of a legally binding international treaty on plastic pollution, particularly in the marine environment, to be held in Geneva in August. They will also support the "Global Push", an initiative aimed at gaining recognition for the essential role of waste management and the transition to circularity in achieving the 2030 SDGs.

Communication Contact

Pauline Astruc

pauline.astruc@pfd-fswp.fr

+33 (0)6 24 02 43 20