

ALL ON BOARD FOR HEALTHY WATERS

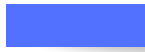
**JUNE 3RD
2PM-3.30PM**

#HEALTHYWATERS



SURFRIDER
FOUNDATION EUROPE

CONTEXT



The quality of European waters is threatened by pollution from land and sea-based human activities: urban and agricultural runoff, discharges from industrial activities, maritime transport and offshore exploitation of resources. Runoff on impermeable soils, wastewater discharges and overflows (treated or not) as well as industrial discharges and malfunctions contribute to worsening the quality of aquatic environments. On land, this pollution is carried by water or wind and converges towards rivers and streams before ending up in the ocean. Urban and artificial coastlines also contribute to altering and polluting the natural water cycle and reducing its resilience.

At the same time, water is used in abundance in the private, industrial and domestic sectors. It is mixed with our consumer products waste and «toxic» substances. Most of this «polluted» water is collected and treated by treatment plants before being discharged into the environment. Current treatment techniques and methods do not make it possible to treat and purify all the substances produced and discharged by humans.

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. This Directive was updated and revised in 2006. According to the Bathing Water Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC), the European Commission should have, no later than 2020, reviewed this Directive with particular regard to the parameters for bathing water quality.

In 2020, based on information provided by Member States and information received by stakeholders, a 'reality check' report on the implementation of the Bathing Water Directive was issued by the Commission. In 2021, a roadmap was released together with the launch of a feedback review which received the contribution of 51 stakeholders, marking the official start of this review.

At the moment this event is being prepared, a public consultation is about to be launched by June 2021. In parallel to this process, the European Commission adopted on May 12 a Zero Pollution Action Plan which clearly outlines the ongoing review of the Bathing Water Directive as one of its milestones.

ON-LINE EVENT



This online conference will bring together representatives from water sport federations from across Europe, individuals sport enthusiasts, researchers, environmental NGOs, Surfrider ambassadors, local authorities to reflect on what should be done to ensure healthy waters in Europe and make sure the rules we have in place to safeguard public health and clean bathing waters are up to date and meet the objective to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to protect human health. It will give the floor to very diverse stakeholders with either first hand experience of bad water quality or ideas for improving the EU legislation or will allow those who depend on clean and healthy waters to have their say on this important issue.

This online event will also be the occasion for Surfrider Foundation Europe to deliver the European Manifesto for Healthy Waters to the European Commission. This Manifesto has received the support from more than 60 organisations across Europe.

The supporters of the Manifesto for Healthy Waters believe that the measures introduced by the Bathing Water Directive are insufficient to preserve the quality of all European waters and the health of all users.

Thanks to a collaborative work involving the scientific community, volunteers, the sport community and civil society, the European Manifesto for Healthy Waters powered by Surfrider Europe was prepared in 2020 to bring these claims to the European institutions with the support of a large number of entities at European level.

This manifesto advocates for:

- Extending of water quality monitoring to recreational and water sports areas
- Monitoring water quality throughout the year
- Adding new parameters in the monitoring of water quality and in the criteria for the classification of sites: the presence of marine litter, harmful algal blooms and cyanobacteria, and chemical pollutants
- Obligations for the Member States regarding identifying, assessing and preventing pollution
- Standardised, more accessible and better relayed public information on water quality, as well as strengthened and encouraged public participation
- Aligning all policies with an impact on water and the protection of the marine environment.

This event has been labelled 'EU Green Week 2021 Partner Event' and has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union.

Please register [here](#).

AGENDA

June 3rd

[Registration link](#)

Join a 1 hour and 30 min on-line and highly interactive event consisting of 1 opening keynote speech and 2 short panel discussions that will invite for open discussions on current issues and pollution impacting EU waters and how the upcoming revision of the Directive on bathing waters and Zero Pollution Action Plan can help in fixing this. The event will close with a session with a representative from the European Commission and a representative from Surfrider Foundation Europe and the official delivery of the European Manifesto for Healthy Waters.

14.00 OPENING SPEECH

Surfer, scientist, author, explorer **Easkey BRITTON**

14.15 PANEL 1 / WHY ARE HEALTHY WATERS IMPORTANT ?

14.40 PANEL 2/ WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR WATERS ?

15.15 CLOSING SESSION / WHAT CAN BE DONE ?

DELIVERY OF THE MANIFESTO FOR HEALTHY WATERS

Surfrider Foundation Europe

European Commission

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 every level of society from citizens, to businesses and public institutions and governments 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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