



Limiting Microplastics

‘Reinventing plastics – Closing the circle’ Conference

Roberto Scazzola – AISE
Brussels 26 September 2017



THE A.I.S.E. NETWORK

(AS OF MAY 2016)

30 National Associations in Europe and beyond, representing more than 900 companies!

IN SHORT

Total number of member companies active in the soaps, detergents or maintenance products domains	1251
Number of companies which are small and medium-sized enterprises	638
Number of companies which are active in the professional cleaning & hygiene domain	535
Number of companies which are active in the consumer product domain	602



TIPS FOR SAVING WATER, ENERGY, CO₂ AND MONEY

Avoid underfilling the machine

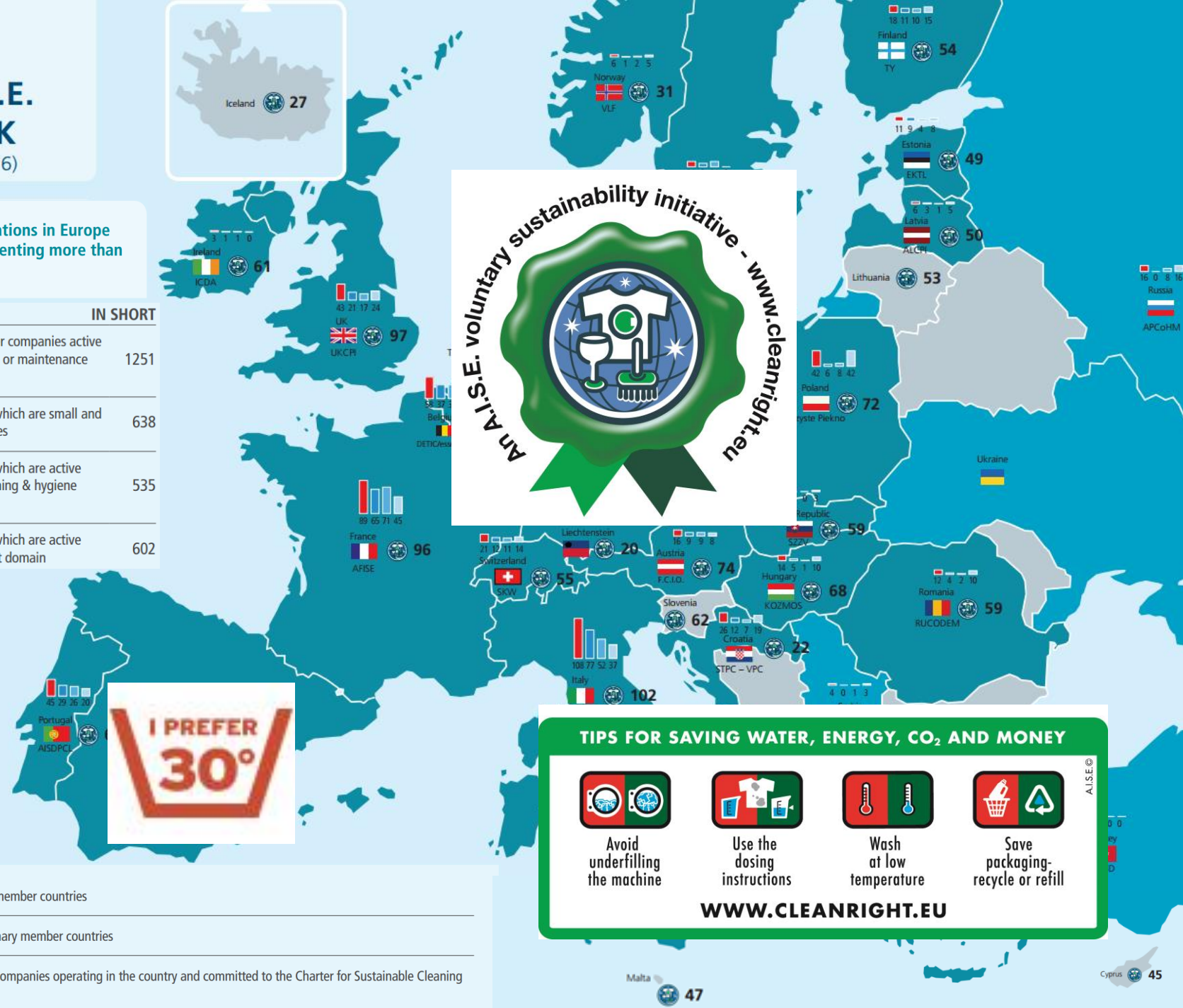
Use the dosing instructions

Wash at low temperature

Save packaging- recycle or refill

WWW.CLEANRIGHT.EU

- A.I.S.E. ordinary member countries
- A.I.S.E. extraordinary member countries
- Total number of companies operating in the country and committed to the Charter for Sustainable Cleaning



A truly global issue

A.I.S.E. acknowledges the challenges faced by society in relation to marine litter.

A.I.S.E. is supportive of a multi-stakeholders approach in addressing the issue of marine litter and preventing the release of (micro)plastics:

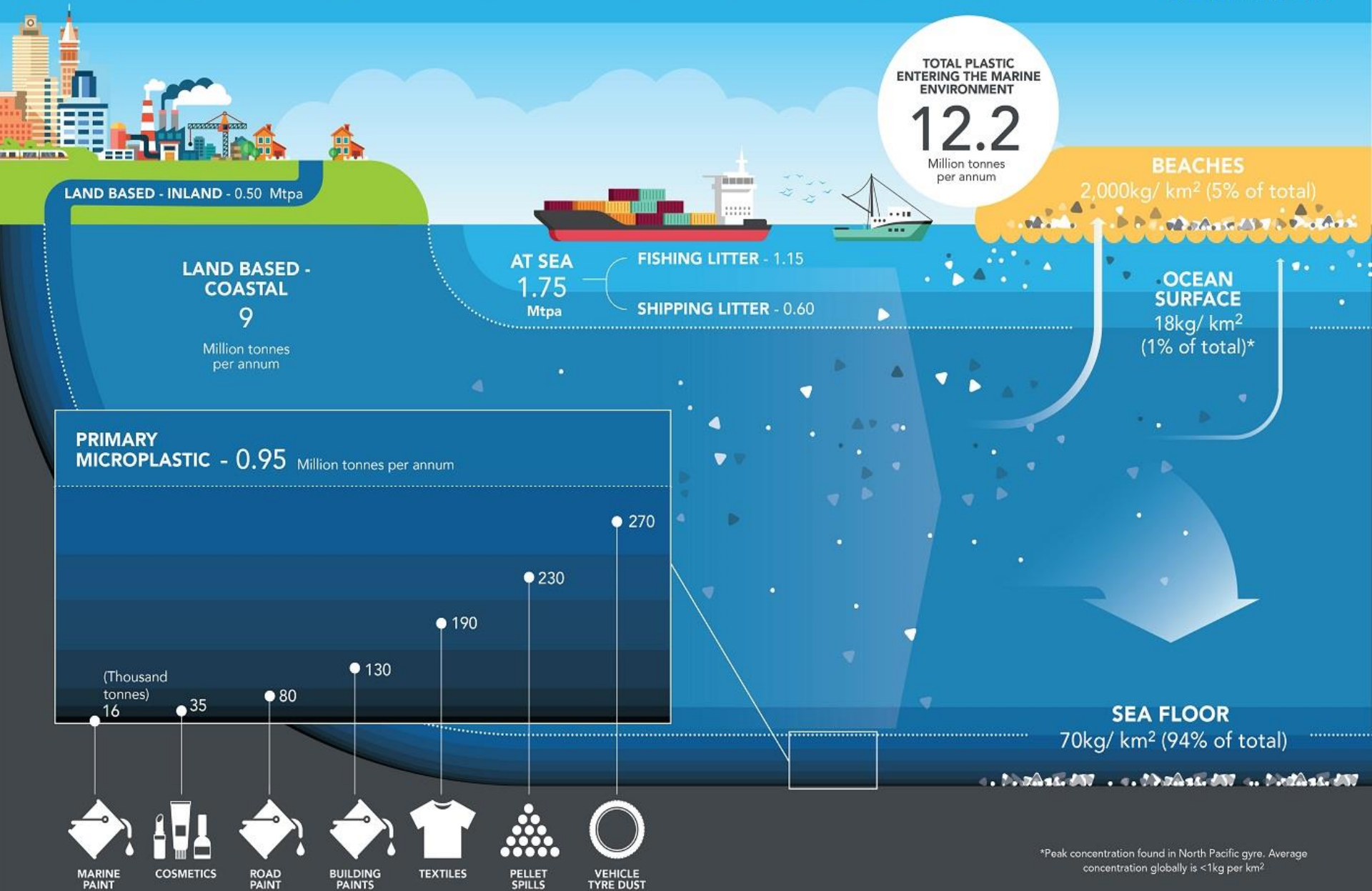
- Promote action at EU-level (Single market);
- Align objectives with other global jurisdictions in order to reduce plastic leakage in the environment and (micro)plastics pollution in the world's oceans;
- Ensure that any regulatory action taken is proportionate, effective and science-based.

Voluntary actions can also be part of the solution.

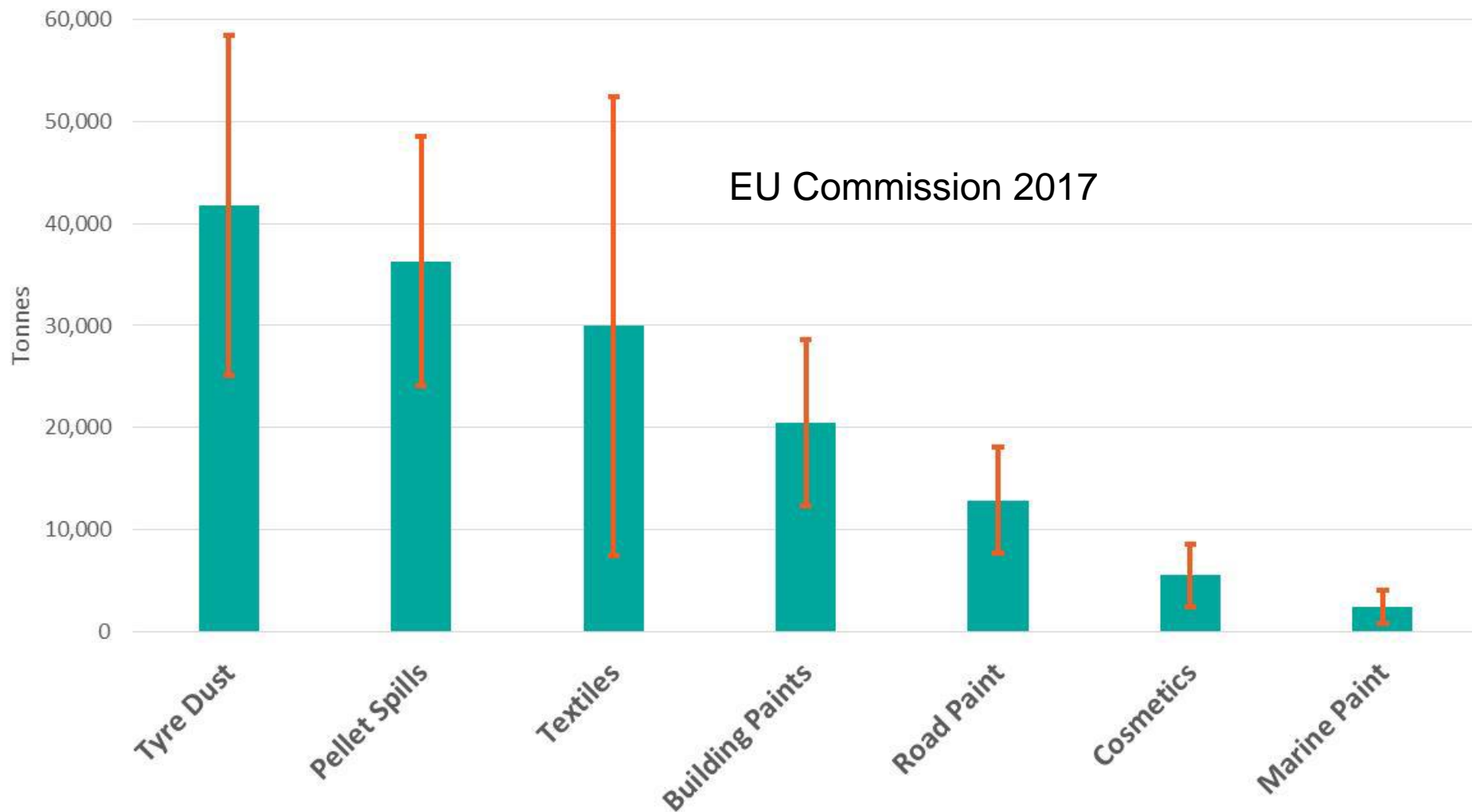


PLASTICS IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT: WHERE DO THEY COME FROM? WHERE DO THEY GO?

eunomia 



The size of the problem



A marginal (if not negligible) input

- Microplastics is a rather new topic for the detergents sector.
- Commission study launched early 2017 on primary microplastic.
- A.I.S.E. members reported only marginal use of microbeads in few niche applications: up to 140 tons/year equivalent to 0.0015% total MP (Eunomia 2016).
- Concerned industry is already investing in alternatives and phasing out where possible.



Microplastics definition is critical

- ‘Microplastics’ and ‘microbeads’ are often used as synonyms;
- We should focus on what affects marine litter;
- Commission study proposed a very broad definition for microplastics: solid synthetic polymers below 5 mm
- Definition is critical: not all polymers are plastic (functional ingredients).
- A.I.S.E. considers we should address Microplastics: *water insoluble solid plastic particles with a size less than 5mm that can be found as marine litter (plastic: synthetic water insoluble polymers that can be repeatedly molded, extruded or physically manipulated into various solid forms which retain their defined shapes in their intended applications during their use and disposal).*



Are we part of the solution?

Detergents manufacturers can help reducing microfibers release (secondary microplastics). Additional research still needed for an effective cross sectorial approach; however, some measures can reduce environmental impacts:

- Detergents effective at low temperature (e.g. 30°),
- Short cycles, full vs small loads;
- Focus on laundry products for synthetics and washing cycle reducing fibers loss.

Several actions coincide with ongoing A.I.S.E. voluntary campaigns (e.g. I prefer 30°, Cleanright.eu).

We can act together.

