



# SEAS AT RISK

for the protection and restoration of the marine environment

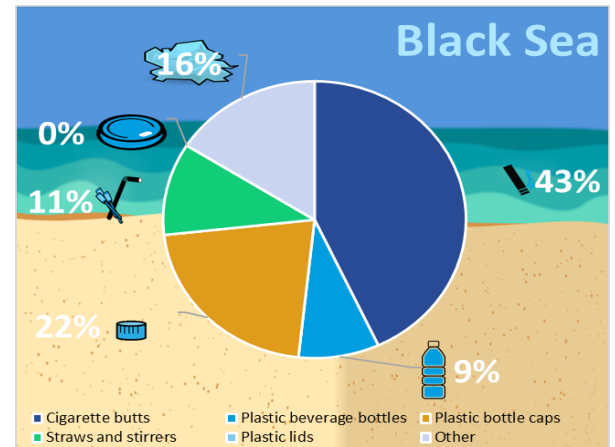
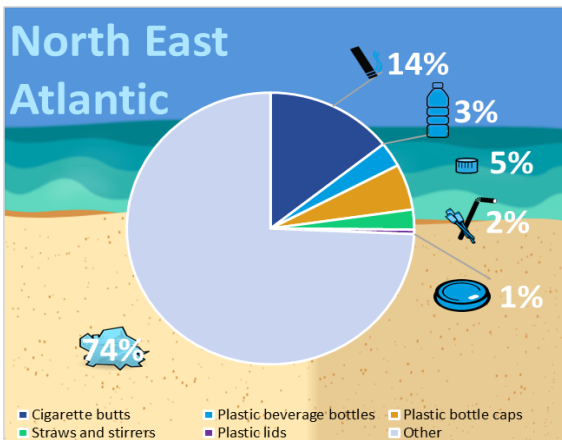
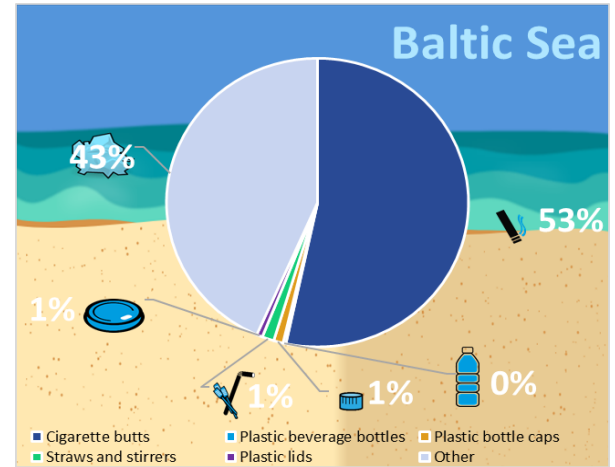
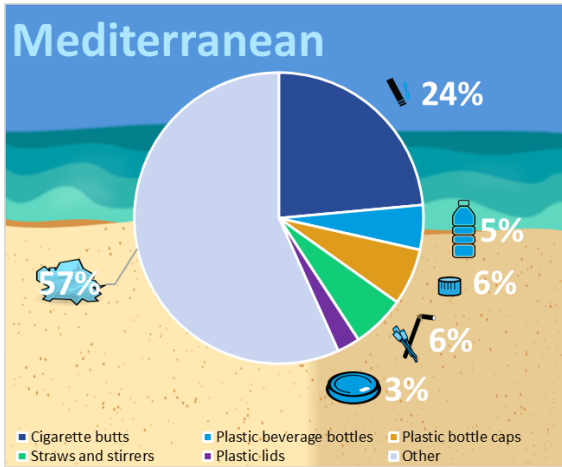
Reducing single use plastics to  
achieve EU marine litter goals

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# Marine litter is an urgent European problem

100 000 tonnes of plastic waste entering European seas from the coastlines per year



# Annual consumption of single use plastic



Item	Annual Consumption, EU28
Beverage bottles 	46 billion
Coffee Cups 	16 billion
Drinking Straws 	36.5 billion
Takeaway packaging 	2.5 billion
Cigarette butts 	580 billion



# Plastic reducing pioneers

Many initiatives designed to tackle some of these items already exist at municipal level. These pioneers are showing that life without single use is possible, but need EU legislation to support on a larger scale.

- **Munich** public authorities ban on disposable drink containers and tableware since 1990
- **Freiburg**: reusable, standardised coffee cup that can be returned to any participating store
- **Hong Kong**: replacing plastic straws with wood pulp straws
- **Copenhagen**: 60 drinking water fountains installed to encourage the use of refillable bottles



# European citizens want and expect EU legislation

- Plastic bag directive was highly effective where implemented, and also very popular with citizens
- Targets to reduce other single-use items should also be tabled
- Return deposit schemes for beverage bottles enjoy high public acceptance and could be made obligatory
- Other areas for EU intervention include setting mandatory Green Public Procurement rules which prioritise waste prevention and reuse in catering
- Citizens are demanding action on plastic! Public petition calling on the Commission to produce an ambitious strategy.





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[www.seas-at-risk.org](http://www.seas-at-risk.org)