The Plastics Manufacturers efforts to prevent marine litter

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Plastics have become indispensable to our lives and are too valuable to be lost in our environment and the oceans. However, plastic debris form a major component of marine litter, negatively affecting aquatic life, leading to socio-economic costs and representing waste of valuable resources. Plastic products need to be responsibly managed throughout their life cycle, so that they do not leak into the environment. In 2015, PlasticsEurope joined the Operation Clean Sweep (OCS) programme, a voluntary industry initiative on plastic pellets loss. Plastic pellets are usually produced in the microsize range to facilitate transport and conversion into products. OCS aims at improving awareness, promoting best practices and providing guidance and tools to support the plastic value chain in the implementation of prevention measures.

PlasticsEurope has committed to:

- To have 100% of its member companies sign the OCS pledge to which OCS is applicable by the end of 2018.

- Develop by 2018 a transparent, harmonised monitoring scheme for the collection of relevant and comparable information from all signed members to measure progress. Reports on progress will be available to all key stakeholders on a yearly basis.

- In 2019 PlasticsEurope will explore the feasibility to develop a common assessment tool with its members.

- To engage with at least one other major European port by the end of 2018. By 2030 we aim at securing that all major industrial plastic pellet handling ports in the EU have taken measures to implement OCS.

- To expand the work of the platforms with the supply chain and relevant stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of OCS within the plastics industry.

At the conference we will present the latest efforts and achievements to prevent plastics pel- let loss.

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