

PELLET LOSS IN EUROPEAN SEAS: THE NEED FOR A REGULATORY SUPPLY-CHAIN APPROACH



SURFRIDER
FOUNDATION EUROPE



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Created 30 years ago



Grassroot and European NGO: 13,000 members across 12 countries



Areas of expertise: marine litter, water quality and health, coastal management and climate change

RETH!NK PLASTiC

#break**free**fromplastic

FIGURES ON PELLET POLLUTION

~ 160,000

tons of plastic pellets
"lost" each year in the EU

> 250,000

tons of plastic pellets end up
in aquatic environments each year

2ND

most important source of primary
microplastic pollution





PLASTIC PELLET POLLUTION

SEVERE IMPACTS:

- **Persistent, long lasting & irreversible pollution**
 - **Marine & terrestrial life and habitats**
-
- **Toxicity**
 - **Potential risk to human health**



[Our video](#)



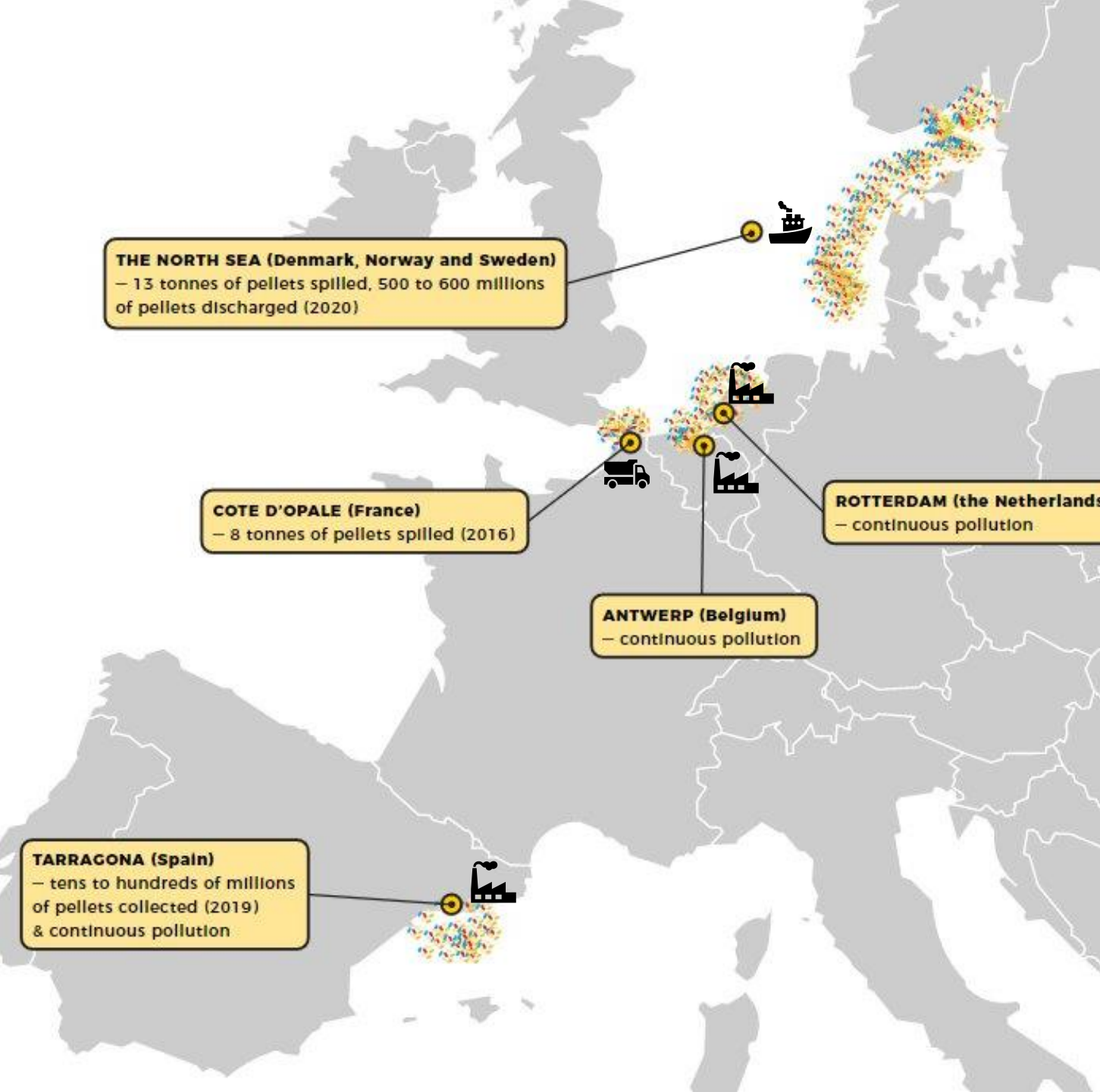
[Our report](#)



given their very small size (under 5 millimetres).

A CHRONIC AND STRUCTURAL POLLUTION

5 RECENT CASES ILLUSTRATING 5 TYPES OF PLASTIC PELLET POLLUTION



Côte d'opale, France
Pellet spill during truck transportation

The North sea (Denmark, Norway and Sweden)
Pellet spill during ship transportation

Tarragona, Spain
Continuous pollution around a concentration of petrochemical industries and manufacturing plants

Rotterdam, the Netherlands
Continuous pollution around a concentration of petrochemical industries and manufacturing plants

Antwerp, Belgium
Continuous pollution around a concentration of petrochemical industries and manufacturing plants

→ **WHOLE VALUE CHAIN**

→ **NOT ANECDOTAL: SRI LANKA, ECAUSSINNES, ...**

→ **TRANSBOUNDARY**





MAIN TAKEAWAYS FROM OUR REPORT



Cleaning-up plastic pellet pollution is NOT a solution



Voluntary initiatives, such as Operation Clean Sweep are NOT a solution



Preventing pellet loss should NOT be an option given to the plastic value chain

TARRAGONA CASE

MASSIVE PELLET POLLUTION CASE AFFECTING THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA & THE BALEARIC ISLANDS
#CHASINGPELLETS

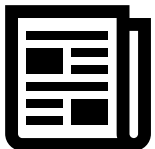
ONGOING AND EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT:

➡ **NOV. 2021: AROUND 1 MILLION IN 2 HOURS**

➡ **MAY 2022: AROUND 1,8 MILLIONS IN 2 HOURS**

DIRECT LINK TO THE PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY AND OCS

"ACHIEVEMENT AND BEST PRACTICE"?



Le Monde
RTVE



MONDAY
16TH, MAY
2022



**BINDING
INSTRUMENTS
AT EU, REGIONAL
AND NATIONAL
LEVEL**

**WHOLE PLASTIC
VALUE CHAIN**

**EFFECTIVE AND
EXTERNAL
CONTROL**

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Hold all companies involved in making, using or transporting pellets accountable by law;**
- **Compel companies to follow and respect specific guidelines to prevent pellet loss;**
- **Impose that all staff are trained; • Set legal obligations for frequent and independent third party audits of these companies;**
- **Ensure that companies are working together across the supply chain;**
- **Penalise pellet spills in the environment;**
- **Deny permits for new infrastructure aiming at increasing plastic production in Europe**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !



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