



European elections 2024: The Blue Up 2024 coalition delivers citizens' recommendations for a better protection of the ocean

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On October 23rd, the 30 organisations behind the “Blue Up 2024!” campaign took citizens’ recommendations for a better protection of the Ocean to the European Parliament during an event organised under the patronage of Member of the European Parliament Catherine Chabaud.

The Ocean: a central issue for the future

The coming years will determine the future of our planet: the EU will be taking **important decisions that will have an impact on the ocean**, whether on energy, plastic pollution, maritime transport, or fishing.

These decisions will affect all European citizens. **Their involvement** in civic and democratic life **is therefore decisive in shaping the future**.

During the last European elections, the political parties and candidates included more proposals relating to the environment in their manifestos and programs, but **few proposals relating to the Ocean**.

A voice for citizens and the Ocean

Blue Up 2024! is a European campaign that aims to offer EU citizens and civil society organisations who care about and are committed to the Ocean the possibility to **express their views on Ocean protection and bring them to European decision-makers**.

As part of this campaign, the coalition, led by Surfrider Foundation launched the largest citizen consultation on the Ocean at the European level, called "It's Bluedy Time, Europe!"

From December 2022 to May 2023, Ocean experts and Ocean-loving citizens reenvisioned the protection of the Ocean.

Close to **400 proposals**, ideas and solutions were shared on how the European Union can act to **better protect the Ocean during its next mandate**.

Proposals were gathered in relation to six different topics: **Climate Change, Biodiversity, Pollution, Blue Economy, Health and Democracy**.

[Our report with our 10 asks is to be found here](#)

An event at the European Parliament to present citizens' demands

This 23rd of October, the European Parliament welcomed the opening of Fabrice Monteiro's photo exhibition. On this occasion, the Blue Up 2024! coalition, represented by Kacper Kociumbas, ambassador of the [Eurocean's youth](#) network **delivered the report compiling the first demands of the campaign to MEP Catherine Chabaud**.

« We believe the EU is best placed to act on ocean protection as it can decide to decrease the impacts of the blue economy, can set targets and obligations to drive action to protect marine areas, can prohibit harmful activities happening on land and at sea and give voice to impacted ocean communities. » said Kacper Kociumbas. After handing out the report, he continued: *« With this report, we wish to express the urgency of protecting the Ocean and seas at EU level. As we are heading towards election times, we also wish with this report to invite EU decision makers to increase their action and ambition on ocean protection during the next mandate. »*

[Photos of the event to be found here](#)

Among these citizens' demands are the following:

- On pollution, **reduce plastic production at the European level** and advocate for a reduction at global level, and **remove the most dangerous chemicals** from the market,

- **Drastically reduce emissions, pollution and overall impacts of the blue economy,**
- On climate change, **reduce global carbon emissions and those of the blue economy** but also restore **biodiversity as well as coastal areas** to protect their role as a buffer zone against the impacts of climate change,
- **Protect at least 30% of the Ocean**, with at least 10% in full or high protection, including particularly vulnerable areas with high ecological value,
- **Reduce noise emissions** through strict rules applying to shipping and a ban on offshore drilling
- **Strictly limit the supply of fish and seafood products to those coming from sustainable**, low-carbon and local fisheries,
- Build a **more inclusive and sustainable governance**.

[The detailed proposals can be found here](#)

We remain at the disposal of journalists for any requests for information or interviews.



Surfrider Foundation
Blutopia
Gallifrey foundation
Seas at Risk
Rethink Plastic
Break Free from Plastic
Acteon
Global Youth Biodiversity Network
Kelonia
Réunion des musées régionaux
Seal Rescue Ireland
Wings of the Ocean
Chelonia
Ocean and Climate Platform
Vertidos Cero
Aimm
Youth and Environment Europe
EurOcean's Youth
AEBAM
Ibiza and Formentera Preservation

About Blue Up 2024!

Blue Up 2024 is a campaign to put ocean protection at the heart of the political agenda ahead of the European elections.

We are doing this with the support of European citizens who took part in the consultation we launched in December 2022. They shared with us their ideas and solutions on how the European Union should strengthen and consolidate its policies to protect the Ocean.

Building on the more than 400 contributions received, we identified 10 major policy proposals. These proposals are the measures we want to put at the top of the priorities of candidates to the European elections in June 2024.

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