



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Suva, Fiji

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European Union and Suva City Council Team up for Our Ocean

To raise awareness about the increasing challenges posed by marine litter, the Delegation of the European Union (EU) for the Pacific teamed up with the Suva City Council to clean-up the Suva foreshore today.

Every year millions of tons of trash end up in the ocean. It is estimated that by 2050 there could be more plastic than fish in its waters. The EU is determined to prevent this bleak prospect from becoming a reality and is committed to protecting the oceans and seas, while ensuring their sustainable use.

The beach clean-up took place ahead of the [#OurOcean](#) conference, hosted for the first time by the EU (Malta, 5-6 October), where global leaders, including from industry, will present ambitious and measurable commitments to ensure cleaner, healthier and safer seas.

The EU Ambassador to Fiji and the Pacific, His Excellency Julian Wilson said: "Marine litter is a global challenge. This action stands to prove that everybody, individually and collectively, can take concrete action to address it. Not only by cleaning our beaches and coasts, but also committing to a more sustainable lifestyle – by reducing plastic consumption, reusing and recycling. The beach clean-up today underlines the readiness of EU staff to take concrete action as concerned citizens to take better care of Our Ocean."

The European Union calls on all public administrations to host similar events to raise awareness about the growing and alarming phenomenon of marine pollution, one of six key topics on the agenda at the Our Ocean conference.

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"The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".