



COLLÈGE DE L'EUROPE
IN ARDRES



LYCÉE SOPHIE BERTHELOT
IN CALAIS



AUGUSTUM-ANNEN GYMNASIUM
IN GÖRLITZ



SENOJI GIMNAZIJA
IN PALANGA



IES PEDRO PEÑALVER IN
CARTAGENA



Erasmus+



May 9th - May 12th 2022

Projet One Step Forward : 2021-1-FR01-KA210-SCH-000032315

Dear representative of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, Mrs. Hervé,

Dear representatives of Youth4ocean,

We, students of the world representing the future generations, we, European citizens, are taking part in an ERASMUS + project called « One Step Forward ». Together, representatives of our countries : Germany, Spain, Lithuania and France, have become aware of the present situation of the ocean and its emergency. That is why we are writing this letter to alert you about various dangers related to ocean resources, trade and transport, agriculture and aquaculture around the world and propose solutions to solve these problems. We are in jeopardy. How are we supposed to stay silent when we are already aware of the danger ?

During our research, we discovered that the marine ecosystem faces many issues due to climate change and human activities. First and foremost, phytoplankton and sharks, for example, are suffering from the warming and acidification of water. Phytoplankton is also endangered by microplastics while the sharks are suffering from overfishing, bycatch and poaching. We also noticed that some companies pose danger to the marine life because they disturb the marine food chain and how it works. Do you know that the ocean is no longer a silent world ? All the noise around unable animals to communicate with each other. Secondly an ever growing problem is the overuse of fertilizers and pesticides which provokes a great increase in the pollution of our waters. Are you aware that all this later ends up on our plates ?

How can there be a future if you don't help us change anything ?

Moreover oil companies are dangerous to marine life due to the amount of oil they pump daily. The pumping actually destroys marine biomes nearby the pumping plants and due to this destruction, the local citizens suffer from the lack of food. Also, overfishing and, in general, aquaculture are destroying our oceans' biodiversity. We must not fall into the same pitfalls as some countries or companies responsible for a great decrease in biodiversity in their seas, especially rare species. Lastly, a few countries also affect marine biodiversity as they endanger the species because of the overuse of transportation on the ocean and of plastic pollution. Do you know that 860 tons are discarded daily in the Maldives, a country that is very dependent on tourism and already impacted by climate change ? Indeed around 21% of waste pollution is due to tourism. If we carry on overfishing, destroying marine habitats and polluting the oceans, by 2048, most of the marine lifeforms will be extinct. Is this truly a world that we wish to live in ?

Referring to the problems we mentioned, and knowing that the situation is not an easy one, we ask for your help. We have thought about urgent useful solutions. The use of plastic packaging should be more regulated, while the use of paper ones and recycled ones should be encouraged. You can also help us to organize and popularize beach cleanings. In the field of aquaculture, we demand stricter fishing limits. Furthermore, we also demand a greater number of marine reserves to restrict human influence to create areas where marine organisms can recover and fight against the decrease in their populations. In addition, we urge You to provide more funding to the research of water cleaning technologies, which can later be used around the globe.

To make the field of agriculture more environmentally friendly, we have to increase the taxation of fertilizers and pesticides, while also rewarding companies that make their production ecologically friendly. Local farms should also be financially supported. Tourism companies should be punished and get a fine when they are responsible for polluting the ocean either by throwing rubbish into it or by building infrastructures that destroy the environment. Finally we also have to regulate the shipping flux of cargos. We know that things are changing, but not quickly enough.

We are looking forward to hearing from you to do the next step together,

Best regards,

The Erasmus + projet's students from Germany, Lithuania, Spain and France.