



Press release

French presidency of the G7

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE WILL LAUNCH AN UNPRECEDENTED PRE-SUMMIT EVENT TO PRIORITIZE OCEAN CONSERVATION AHEAD OF G7 NEGOTIATIONS

8 July 2019.

The next G7 will be held in Biarritz from 24 to 26 August 2019. As this event approaches and following the first day of the "G7 Dialogue" with civil society, Surfrider Foundation Europe hopes that clear objectives will be stated on the part of the G7 on the recognition of global warming, and more particularly on the preservation of oceans.

To meet this challenge and place it at the heart of the negotiations, Surfrider Europe will organize the 'Ocean Pavilion'. This pre-summit event will bring together politicians, international scientific and economic experts, sports figures and civil society representatives to ignite conversations and develop proposals to alert the major powers of the G7 of the emergency of ocean preservation and encourage them to make concrete commitments.

A new format to propose solutions for global environmental protection

Emmanuel Macron, the President of the French Republic, is committed to involving key civil society players in the preparation and preliminary discussions of the G7 in France. Surfrider Foundation Europe will take this opportunity to host the Ocean Pavilion, a public platform to nurture conversations and idea sharing between international stakeholders around the topic of ocean protection.

During four days of conferences and workshops, the Ocean Pavilion will bring together approximately 80 prominent personalities including political representatives, international experts, players from the scientific, economic, sports, political and associative communities around four themes which encompass the major issues of ocean conservation:

- Ocean, Sports and Sustainable Tourism
- Ocean and Biodiversity
- Ocean and plastic pollution
- Ocean and Climate

This event format is strategically designed to support a comprehensive view of the present challenges facing ocean protection and encourage dialogue among stakeholders to suggest feasible solutions. At the conclusion of the Pavillion, an official statement will be released detailing the current state of public opinion on ocean matters and how key civic players expect the leaders of the largest global economies to take progressive action. This statement will be broadly disseminated and is expected to be taken into consideration during G7 Summit discussions.

The ocean is the primary resource impacted by climate change

The Ocean plays a major role in regulating global climate by generating half the world's oxygen, despite the continued declination of its overall health. Plastic pollution, which has now entered the food chain, claims the life of 100 000 marine mammals each year. In just 40 years, we have lost half of the world's corals.

The Opinion Way survey conducted for the Y71, which encompasses all campaigns against social and environmental inequalities, illustrates an unparalleled expectation from French citizens for heightened consideration of environmental issues: **72% stating that they support a declared state of climate emergency by next autumn².**

From Florent Marcoux, Director of Surfrider Foundation Europe: "In view of this climate emergency, it is imperative that [ocean] preservation be at the heart of the G7 negotiations. After the Mercosur agreement and the G20, the G7 cannot be a missed opportunity to take action for the ocean and climate. With Ocean Pavilion, we wish to adopt a constructive awareness-raising approach, not in protest. It is the whole civic society which is mobilising to incite the international community to go beyond the declarations of intent and to take action."

Surfrider Europe expects on the part of the international powers that ocean preservation be recognised as a global concern and that a clear roadmap be adopted to strengthen regulations which respect it.

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¹ Group which brings together the young people from the countries of the G7

² Opinion Way survey for Open Diplomacy, July 2019