



Ocean. Now! Amplifies the Voices of Over 100,000 People Towards the Ministry of the Environment After Their Summer of Silence

Berlin, November 26th, 2019 - Ocean. Now! is mobilising over 100,000 people who signed an open letter addressed to the Ministry of the Environment after waiting months for a formal response. Entitled "[Kamera. Licht. Action!](#)" the action is providing a voice for the people who urged against the use of microplastics in cosmetics and cleaning products. The Berlin based NGO has called upon its community to amplify the message and receive an official response from the Ministry of the Environment on the desperate need to take action. 15 questions are being put forward and 15 answers are expected.

As part of the Ocean. Now! project "In Your Face", the open letter was to draw attention to the global environmental problems associated with microplastics. At the end of the project nearly 100,000 people had signed the open letter which was handed over to the Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze, together with allies (Whale and Dolphin Conservation, Zero Waste Berlin e.V., Plasticontrol).



The Minister of the Environment Svenja Schulze met with Ocean. Now! but is yet to answer questions of the open letter.

A dialogue was held and the meeting was followed up with requests to start moving towards positive action. However the petition, whilst accepted, was not followed through by the Ministry of the Environment and since then the open letter has now gathered over 104,000 signatures.

The protection of the oceans and action against microplastics needs to happen with urgent speed and so Ocean. Now! has called upon those who signed the open letter and anyone who cares about the ocean to record a short selfie-video on the questions that need answers. 15 core questions have been recorded by passionate people and their 15 voices amplify the 100,000 strong supporters of this action. Each person deserves the answers and the Ministry is getting engaged in the dialogue with citizens concerned by microplastics in cosmetics and cleaning products.

The video is being presented to the Ministry of the Environment who must now answer these questions.

"We have created a visual hourglass where the sand has been replaced with pieces of plastic. This is showcase how time is running out for the ocean. The fear is looming larger by the day. The politicians must create stronger incentives for the abandonment of liquid microplastics to begin with. We request that they create stronger incentives for the industry to abstain from the production of both solid and liquid microplastics." - Meike Schützek, co-founder Ocean. Now!

To view the video's of the 15 questions, please visit follow the NGO on social media to keep up to date with the developments.

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Important political background information:

In October 2019, the federal state of Hessen has [proposed](#) to also regulate "liquid microplastics" (soluble synthetic polymers) in cosmetics and cleaning products. This progressive approach has been but has not reached a majority of votes at Bundesrat yet.

From cosmetics and cleaning products in Germany alone, 48,000 tonnes of microplastics and dissolved synthetic polymers are released into wastewater every year (source: [NABU](#)).

More images of the petition handover by Ocean. Now! to the Ministry of the Environment in June 2019 can be found [here](#).

More information on the social relevance of microplastics in cosmetics and scientific studies on toxicity are in our fact sheet in the [press pack](#).

About Ocean. Now!

Ocean.Now! is a collective dedicated to the protection of the oceans. It works with art to accelerate the protection of our ocean as a whole. The "Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14)" of the Paris Climate Agreement forms the framework for the work of the collective.

[On the Sustainable Development Goal 14](#)

[On the Sustainable Development Goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.](#)