

European Union Delegation to Singapore

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17th September 2022

#EUBeachCleanup2022 led by the European Union Delegation to Singapore



This morning (17th September 2022) **100 participants** from Europe and Singapore, including children as young as three, joined hands to kick-start #EUBeachCleanup2022 activities in Singapore. The event was organised by the European Union Delegation to Singapore.

Cleaning a part of the East Coast Beach they collected 1 skip-fill of litter. This included a huge fishing net, over 70 styrofoams and in excess of 60 plastic bottles.

Says EU Ambassador to Singapore Iwona Piórko: "I was delighted to welcome such a diverse crowd to launch #EUBeachCleanup 2022 here. It was particularly heart-warming to see children involved in the activity. Some may feel our clean-up is a lone droplet in an issue as vast as the ocean but every action counts. Allow me to remind you of our motto: United against marine litter. Together, we turn the drop into a blue wave of change." (@IwonaPiorkoEU – Twitter)

Our 2022 edition is made all the more special as it is in the European Year of Youth. This morning several youth and climate activists joined reminding us of the urgent need to act decisively. Youth are agents of change and we have been proud to partner with the youth-led NGO Seven Clean Seas for today's initiative.

#EUBeachCleanup 2022 raises awareness of the ecological impact of marine litter. We highlight the initiatives contributing to a sustainable future. From 19th to 22nd September the EU Delegation to Singapore participates in the Sustainability Film Festival, together with the French Embassy, the Embassy of the Czech Republic, and the Swedish Embassy. Expect to see critically acclaimed documentaries introducing you to the passionate fight of young climate activists.

ABOUT #EUBeachCleanup:

#EUBeachCleanup is a European success story. It was first led by Estonia in 2018 to counteract a grim reality. There are 500 times more microplastics in the oceans than stars in our galaxy. From the beach to the seabed, marine litter affects all levels of marine ecosystems. Our oceans are the origin of life, the living colour of our blue planet. The EU is spearheading global efforts to reduce and avoid plastic pollution, including marine litter. Next to ambitious reuse and recycling targets, EU policy helps reduce single-use plastics and microplastics as well as waste from lost fishing gear. #EU4Ocean #YouthforOcean #BeGreenGoBlue

Image Credit: European Union Delegation to Singapore. Free to use across media.

MEDIA CONTACT

Deepika Shetty, Press Officer

European Union Delegation to Singapore

Tel: 8339-8749

Email: <u>deepika.shetty@eeas.europa.eu</u>

