



**GOOD KARMA
PROJECTS**
ACTION FOR THE PLANET



For immediate release

UNPRECEDENTED CASE

Environmental organisations initiate legal action over plastic pellet contamination in Tarragona

Tarragona, 10 October

Good Karma Projects and Surfrider Foundation, in collaboration with INSTA's legal team, request the initiation of environmental liability proceedings due to persistent plastic pellet pollution in the Tarragona region.

Although the presence of plastic pellets in the environment has been recorded for decades, it has only been in the last five years, thanks to the tireless work of various organizations, that the seriousness of the problem of microplastic pollution in Tarragona has been revealed.

These tiny pieces that serve as raw material for the manufacture of plastic products are considered microplastics due to their size, generally less than 5 mm in diameter. These granules reach the environment through constant losses by the companies that work with them.

In particular, the beaches of La Pineda and Els Prats de Vilaseca (Natura 2000 Network) have been suffering from this plastic pellet pollution constantly for years, especially during torrential rains and strong winds.

Since 2018, **Good Karma Projects** has been carrying out an exhaustive study and documentation of this serious problem, highlighting its extent and alerting both the national and European level to the seriousness of the situation. In 2019, the international NGO **Surfrider Foundation** started collaborating with Good Karma on the issue.

In 2021, the **Chasing Pellets** expedition it undertook with the support of Surfrider Foundation detected pellets even as far offshore as the Balearic Islands, which lack a plastics industry.

In 2022, Good Karma worked on the MEDPELLETS study on the pollution and extent of pellets in the Western Mediterranean, with a focus on Tarragona. In 2023, the organization presented the results to the European Parliament and members of the European Commission. Thanks to these constant impulses by the

organisation, a platform for dialogue between the administration and companies was finally set up, which was created only a few weeks ago but unfortunately without any representatives of environmental groups or the local administration directly affected, such as the Vila-seca City Council.

FOR MORE INFORMATION : MEDPELLETS REPORT

On the other hand, the voluntary measures program "**Operation Clean Sweep**" promoted by these same companies in the plastic value chain proved to be totally ineffective. Both Surfrider Foundation and Good Karma have tried to mediate dialogue and seek solutions together with local, state and European administrations and other stakeholders, but the problem has persisted for years.

In light of this situation and given the lack of measures taken by the administration, the environmental organizations **Good Karma Projects** and **Surfrider Foundation**, supported by **INSTA's** legal team, have decided to go a step further and request the **initiation of legal proceedings to demand environmental responsibility from certain companies in the plastic value chain in Tarragona.**

They urge responsible and concrete action by the companies involved and the cooperation of the authorities to ensure the sustainability of the environment. The procedure aims to safeguard biodiversity and the environmental health of the sea with a restorative and preventive approach.

"Due to the lack of strong action by the administration, we feel a moral obligation to present all the research work done so far, for the sake of the oceans. We want it to serve as an example of a strong fight against microplastic pollution at the European level," said **Jordi Oliva, from Good Karma Projects.**

"Our organizations see the environmental liability procedure as an opportunity to repair environmental damage, but also to adopt effective measures to prevent such damage from recurring in the future. We also hope that thanks to this action, the Catalan legislation itself will consider the necessary measures", added Xavier Curto, coordinator of Surfrider Spain.

During today's press conference, spokespersons from the organizations Good Karma Projects and Surfrider will be available for interviews.

Spokespersons:

- **Jordi Oliva** - Co-founder Good Karma Projects and Director MEDPELLETS
- **Albert Font de Rubinat** - Co-founder Good Karma Projects and communication manager
- **Cristina Barreau** - Surfrider Foundation Europe's Marine Litter Campaign Coordinator
- **Xavier Curto** - Surfrider Spain Coordinator
- **Ivan Hortigüela** - INSTA Lawyer

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More about Good Karma Projects

[GOOD KARMA PROJECTS](#) is an NGO dedicated to environmental action and education, based in Catalonia. The organisation was founded in 2017 by two young engineers passionate about surfing and nature, with the aim of empowering people as a tool for change to generate a positive impact on the planet. Since then it has carried out multiple environmental education and action projects that have involved thousands of people and with a direct impact on the territory. You can find out more at www.goodkarmaprojects.org

More about Surfrider Foundation

The NGO Surfrider Foundation is a group of positive activists who take concrete action on the ground every day to pass on a preserved ocean to future generations. Our mission: to make the ocean's voice heard loud and clear! Our weapons? Raise awareness and mobilize citizens, children and adults alike (thanks in particular to 48 groups of volunteers spread throughout Europe), use our scientific knowledge to put pressure on and transform companies. Surfrider Spain transfers the NGO's mission to the national territory. For more information about the association, please visit <https://surfrider.eu/> or watch [this video](#).

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