

March 25th, 2022

Press release

Start of crowdfunding campaign Europe's Biggest Lie against Tata Steel's polluting activities

[Surfrider Foundation Europe](#), [Surfrider Netherlands](#) & streaming platform [WaterBear](#) partnered to encourage its members to support the community in their legal case to fight against water, soil and air pollution caused by the Tata Steel plant based in the Netherlands, by starting a [crowdfunding campaign](#). The aim is to help and support the people who live nearby the plant by continuing the legal case against Tata Steel. This crowdfunding campaign has been set up through the [whydonate](#) platform.

Surfrider Foundation Europe: *"We want to set a precedent that the heavily polluting industry in the Netherlands and Europe no longer gets away with impunity for their damaging actions to the environment"*



About *Europe's Biggest Lie*

Europe's Biggest Lie goes beyond the headlines to uncover the human stories behind Europe's main environmental threat. The series reveals the scale and life-threatening impact of the pollution that we breathe in everyday, as well as the inaction of our governments. The series features a range of contributors in the UK and the Netherlands including lawyers, activists, bereaved families grieving the loss of loved ones from preventable pollutant related diseases, as well as those whose health and children are being threatened, tirelessly fighting for justice and a better future for all. The second episode uncovers the stories of some of Wijk aan Zee's residents living around the Tata Steel factory. Watch the trailer [here](#).

Legal Case Tata Steel

The Tata Steel plant at IJmuiden has been at the centre of several pollution scandals, with locals in the surrounding areas suffering from health conditions ranging from headaches, chest pain and nausea, as well as being at a higher risk of developing cancer. In fact, the cancer rate in this area is up to fifty percent higher than in the rest of the Netherlands. An investigation by the government's Public Health and Environment Institute, known by its acronym RIVM, recently found that there are up to a thousand times more pathogenic substances in the air than Tata Steel claims. These highly toxic substances are especially dangerous for children. In addition, according to the Lung Cancer Centre, steelworkers are up to five hundred percent more likely to develop disease and cancer. Criminal lawyer Benedict Ficq filed a complaint against Tata Steel and Harsco Metals in the spring of 2021. Last February, the Public Prosecution Service started the criminal investigation into Tata Steel and Harsco

Metals. The crowdfunding campaign aims to continue the lawsuit in the coming years. With the goal of stopping the polluting activities of Tata Steel.

About Surfrider Foundation Europe

Surfrider Europe was created in 1990 by a group of surfers who wanted to preserve their playground. Grass-roots activism to protect our oceans and coasts is at the core of the organisation.

About WaterBear

WaterBear is a ground-breaking streaming platform showcasing award-winning documentaries as well as original content - spanning biodiversity, community, climate action and sustainable fashion. WaterBear members can stream video at any time, and on any device, all for free, as well as take direct instant action to support NGOs around the world and shape a better future for our fragile planet. For more information about WaterBear and to sign up, please visit: www.waterbear.com

End of press release

Europe's Biggest Lie

Watch the film here from the 26th of March at 09.00 ET:

[YouTube link](#)

For the press kit of *Europe's Biggest Lie* [click here](#)

For the crowdfunding campaign: <https://whydonate.nl/fundraising/clean-ijmond/>

Surfrider Foundation Europe

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