

Clean Europe Charter

As promoted by the Clean Europe Network (18 March 2013)

Preamble

Litter is any item that is carelessly discarded outside the confines of a controlled waste management system. It is the result of thoughtless or deliberately anti-social behaviour by citizens and organisations or may occur as a result of inadequate waste management systems.

Littering can leave urban areas untidy and dirty, the countryside unsightly, and the natural environment and wildlife compromised, both on land and in the waterways and seas.

Clean communities, on the other hand, contribute to better quality of life, to safer societies and a better, healthier environment.

Reducing or eliminating the anti-social behaviour of littering enhances the self-esteem of less privileged communities and helps them move forward.

Research shows that areas that are clean and free of litter are likely to remain that way.

People are key to achieving a culture of cleanliness in Europe.

Signed:

The Ambition

To build and strengthen a culture of cleanliness in Europe, the undersigned are committed to work together, where appropriate, in a balanced, shared approach in line with their own roles and responsibilities in society, and share a joint ambition to see a Europe where:

- there is better information about the nature and extent of the littering problem and concerted action to prevent littering;
- best practice and expertise in dealing with the challenge of littering is identified and shared across Europe;
- there is better, sustained public awareness and understanding that littering is unacceptable and illegal;
- unintentional littering or littering as a result of inadequate or insufficient disposal facilities becomes the exception;
- action to clean up litter is well-managed and effective throughout the continent;
- local players develop and implement solutions to the littering problem which are relevant to local needs and conditions;
- adequate and appropriate penalties are available to be imposed on deliberate litterers;
- and, to these ends, partnerships are created and developed to promote cleaner communities.

For new member

This Charter has been signed by the following organisations:

Mooimakers & BeWaPP (Belgium), ***Hall Sverige Rent*** (Sweden), ***Hold Danmark Rent*** (Denmark), ***Hold Norge Rent*** (Norway), ***Keep the Estonian Sea Tidy*** (Estonia), ***IGSU*** (Switzerland) ***NederlandSchoon*** (The Netherlands), ***Paisaje Limpio*** (Spain), ***Gestes Propres*** (France), ***Pidä Saaristo Siistinä ry*** (Finland), ***An Taisce*** (Ireland)