

Tourism Takes Action on Plastic Waste and Pollution

Madrid, Spain, 12 July 2021 – *Tourism businesses and destinations are stepping up their commitment to sustainability. Aimed at reducing waste and pollution across the sector, the [Global Tourism Plastics Initiative \(GTPI\)](#) is welcoming 32 new signatories, with every global region represented behind the shared goal.*

The Initiative unites the tourism sector behind a common vision to address the root causes of plastic pollution. It enables businesses, governments and other tourism stakeholders to lead by example in the shift towards a circular economy of plastics. Among the [32 new signatories](#) are organizations such as **TUI Group, Palladium Hotel Group, Sustainable Hospitality Alliance, Hostelling International, Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association and Visit Valencia**. These new additions bring the total number of signatories up to [93 companies and organizations](#). These include organizations from stages of the tourism value chain, including accommodation providers, tour operators, online platforms, suppliers, waste managers and supporting organizations.

Andreas Vermöhlen, Manager for Sustainability, Circular Economy and Sustainable Development at TUI Group said: "Together we can make important steps towards less unnecessary single-use plastic in the world and shift towards a circular economy."

To mark the confirmation of the new signatories, UNWTO and the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, held a special panel discussion with the theme [Eliminate. Innovate. Circulate. Strategies from the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative](#). Participants included Accor Group, The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Palladium Hotel Group, Chumbe Island Coral Park and the Sustainable Hospitality Alliance.

Zurab Pololikashvili, UNWTO Secretary-General said: "Addressing plastic pollution is essential to sustainably restart tourism, preserve destinations and contribute to climate action. We are proud to see the number of signatories growing continuously since the launch of the initiative."

Alongside this, a keynote presentation on ["A Life Cycle Approach – Key messages for tourism businesses"](#) further highlighted the aims of the GTPI, with a special focus on innovation and the importance of context-based approaches to ensure plastics are circulated back into the economy rather than thrown away after use.

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