



14 April 2014 - [Plastic waste](#) is the main theme of our [newsletter](#) this month.

The Icelandic tourist industry promotes Iceland as a "natural" and "pure" destination. But French photographer Julien Joly encountered an unexpected sight when he visited the remote beaches of Hornstrandir - namely plastic. [Lots of plastic](#) .

It has long been a widespread belief that [marine litter](#) doesn't cause much damage. After all, the oceans are big enough to handle some bits of plastic, right? Unfortunately, we have had it all wrong. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is now the size of Texas.

To disseminate knowledge about the world's massive plastic littering, the Finnish UN Association has launched a competition where you can [propose a name](#) for the "8th continent" - the trash vortex in the Pacific Ocean.

On average, a European citizen uses 198 disposable plastic bags a year - an alarmingly high number. Now, the European Parliament has voted on a resolution which would [ban certain plastic bags](#) as of 2020.

And last, but not least, we have interviewed [Bo Schack](#) from UNHCR. He shares with us his experience regarding the difficult work of providing assistance to refugees and internally

displaced persons in Afghanistan.