

Ici commence la mer - Here the sea begins

An important step for the protection of the environment

The brass plaque shown is the guest gift from the French twin town of Pont-Aven, presented to the town of Hofgeismar on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the town twinning in July 2022.

With the message, "Ici commence la mer" (Here begins the sea), the aim is to raise awareness of the fact that environmentally harmful liquids, papers, plastics, cigarette butts or dog excrement thrown into these drains ultimately end up in the sea. The consequences for nature are devastating. Bacteriological and chemical pollution impacts beaches and the seabed.

The awareness campaign originated in France and spread independently to other countries such as Belgium, the Netherlands and the coastal areas of northern Germany. New regions are constantly being added.

Even though Hofgeismar is not located directly on the coast, the plaques from Brittany are intended to remind people of the problem of water pollution. Every individual, no matter how near or far they are from the sea, should be aware that they should not throw trash into storm drains, because storm drains and street inlets are an open gateway to the seas. 80% of the garbage found in the oceans comes from the land.¹

About the pollution of the sea and the resulting effects Nathalie Delliou, a nature guide and coastal conservationist from Brittany with many years of experience, had already reported impressively in April 2022 in a lecture in Hofgeismar at the invitation of the twinning association. The event took place within the framework of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the partnership and was supported by the German French Civic Fund.

In her lecture, Mrs. Delliou succeeded in taking the audience along with her, using the example of the Atlantic coast of Brittany, and suggested that the citizens of Hofgeismar should also be sensitized with a campaign to combat environmental and marine pollution. After all, the preservation of nature concerns us all and begins with very simple gestures.

For further information:

<https://espritnature.bzh/>

¹ <https://marine-obceans.com>