

Norway / Young Parliament

Dear Colleagues, it is a great pleasure for me to be here with you in beautiful Nusa Dua

I am proud to come from the city of Bergen, the Ocean capital of the Ocean country, Norway, far up in the cold North where we have a long history of seafaring and harvesting from the sea.

For us Norwegians the ocean is our most important source of income. We have to take good care of the ocean while we harvest from it in a sustainable way. We must be able to do both at the same time. We need to have a sustainable ocean economy.

In 2017 a whale stranded in my constituency. Unfortunately it was very ill and we had to end it's suffering. The whale's stomach proved to be completely filled with plastic, more than 40 plastic bags that blocked the digestive system.

The news story of the plastic whale made the headlines worldwide and attracted attention to the problem with plastic litter in the oceans. According to a study done by the World Economic Forum, by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish (by weight) in the ocean, so this a serious problem!

In August 2021, the 98-meter-long tall ship Statsraad Lehmkuhl of Bergen set sail for the twenty month long One Ocean Expedition, a circumnavigation of the globe. The ship serves as a floating university and training vessel combined, bringing students, scientists, trainees and professionals together. The One Ocean Expedition is a recognised part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. This is a good example of the important work to make our generation able to take better care of our common oceans and clean up the mess left us by earlier generations.

In order to survive on this planet, it's crucial that we are able to develop new sustainable energy sources. This must be done through extensive scientific cooperation and knowledge sharing, because we are all in it together.

However, we must realise that it will take time, and we will still need hydrocarbons for energy. I won't hide the fact that Norway is a great producer of oil and gas, and I am actually quite proud of the way we are able to do it in a very well regulated way without hurting our important fish stocks.

In today's dangerous security situation I believe we must continue the production and exploration. It is better to have a supplier from a stable democratic country that adhere to international rules rather than to rely on a dictatorship and an aggressor that hold you as an energy hostage.