



A SEA OF SMOKE

#UNMAREDIFUMO #SEAOFSMOKE

A photography competition launched by *Cittadini per l'Aria* that gives everyone a chance to win.

Fantastic prizes for the best, but something really precious is at stake for everyone: our health.

Cittadini per l'Aria (Citizens for Air), the Italian NGO behind the campaign "Let the Mediterranean breathe" ("*Facciamo respirare il Mediterraneo*"), has launched a photography contest to draw attention to the major problem of air pollution in the Mediterranean caused by high emissions from cruise ships, ferries, cargo ships.

Anna Gerometta, President of the organisation, highlights findings from recent independent research reports that show a steep rise in the maritime sector's contribution to atmospheric emissions, fossil fuel consumption¹, as well as production of gases associated with climate change².

A single cruise ship, for example, emits atmospheric pollutants equivalent to hundreds of thousands of cars and, for certain substances, even millions. Ships using emissions-reduction technology are extremely rare and fuels used by the maritime sector contain as much as 3,500 times more sulphur than diesel used for road transportation. Maritime fuel use is forbidden on land and it is treated as dangerous waste. All this air pollution is damaging for the climate, the natural environment and built heritage, and for the health of people living or working in ports as well as ship passengers.

"A year ago we started a campaign to create a low emissions zone in the Mediterranean. We have measured emissions from ships in Venice, Genoa and Civitavecchia and an International Conference was held last March in Rome, that led to adoption of the Rome Declaration³" notes the


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http://www.cedelft.eu/publicatie/the_share_of_aviation_and_maritime_transport_in_the_eu%20%80%99s_transport_related_fossil_fuel_demand/1882

² According to the International Maritime Organisation's [estimate](#) that CO₂ deriving from maritime transport will grow 50-250% by 2050, see also

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/569964/IPOL_STU\(2015\)569964_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/569964/IPOL_STU(2015)569964_EN.pdf)

³ [Dichiarazione ai fini della designazione del Mar Mediterraneo quale "Area a Controllo delle Emissioni"](#) Declaration to designate the Mediterranean Sea a restricted area for ship emissions



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President of the organization, *“we feel that people now know more about the issues and will be able to contribute to the process of engagement that we have begun with Port Authorities, Harbour Masters Offices, local administrations and ministerial departments. The participation of many associations, active in different port cities, is a strong signal of all this and we thank them all.”*

How does the competition work and what are the prizes?

“We are asking people to take pictures over the summer that show large cruise ships, ferries and container ships emitting smoke and to send them by 30 September via our dedicated competition website <http://www.cittadiniperlaria.org/unmaredifumo/en>. A special jury will decide the best photos and prizes have been donated by our sponsors who support a clean and breathable sea.”

Two days including breakfast for two people at the Gritti Palace Hotel in Venice is the first, precious, prize. A beginners sailing course for two, including accommodation, at the Santa Teresa Sea School in Lerici, in the Gulf of Poets, is the second prize followed by bags and rucksacks offered by Patagonia and two subscriptions to the magazine Bioecogeo and the Giornale della Vela.

The initiative is supported by a number of associations and committees working to protect our health in the main port cities of Italy *We are here Venice - Coordinamento Livorno Porto Pulito - Italia Nostra Marche - Forum Ambientalista Civitavecchia – Comitato No Grandi Navi/Ambiente Venezia - Spezia Via Dal Carbone - Savona Porto Elettrico - Comitato Tutela Ambientale Genova Centro-Ovest- Peacelink*

Info: <http://www.cittadiniperlaria.org/unmaredifumo/en>

Cittadini per l’Aria onlus analyses and monitors national and local policies; engages with regulatory processes and law-making and, when necessary, handles air quality protection issues in the courts. Its mission is to provide viewpoints, solutions and strategies based on scientific evidence for citizens to be able to push for appropriate choices, associations to be able to share information and combine their energies, and businesses and public administrations to change the way they approach air quality issues in their everyday activities. <http://www.cittadiniperlaria.org/> - Facebook www.facebook.com/pages/Cittadini-per-lAria/ - Twitter and Instagram [@Citizensforair](https://www.instagram.com/Citizensforair)