

Dear President Solinas,

On Friday, March 15, millions of people around the world, and several thousand in Sardinia, demonstrated to peacefully ask the institutions for a breakthrough in environmental policies. To dismiss the powerful protest chorus raised by the "Global strike for future" as an ephemeral episode of folklore would mean to keep unchanged and unresolved the distance that separates the multitudes from the political class, whether it is called to the big world assemblies or gathered in local representative bodies.

In Cagliari, Sassari, Nuoro and Oristano as well as in New York, Buenos Aires, London, New Delhi and Tokyo, the students demand that the solutions to the devastating problems created by pollution and climate change are not a distant horizon. They demand that the future be now. Their language is simple because the consequences of the predatory attitude of the dominant cultural and economic models, too often passively embraced by States, are evident and dramatic. In a new dimension, the need to protect the environment is transformed into the duty of everyone, of the individual as well as of the institutions.

Dear President, the Medsea Foundation asks you to immediately become the interpreter of the emerging collective demands, promoting courageous and rigorous policies for the protection of the environment and the landscape of the Sardinian coasts. A first, concrete gesture of openness is to banish plastic from the Sardinian beaches. There are countless studies and testimonies that describe the siege to which our coasts and our sea are subjected by waste.

It is no coincidence that *the Environment Committee of the European Parliament, in synergy with the Council and the Commission, has recently produced a text of law indicating 2021 as the date from which the sale and distribution of non-compostable materials near the sea will be prohibited.* The directive has been welcomed with enthusiasm by the Italian government. *The Minister of the Environment, Mr Costa, has been working for months on a "sea-saving" decree, with which he intends to proceed with the early implementation of the text constructed at European level. The Apulia Region, through dialogue with the representatives of the bathing trade unions and environmental associations, has launched measures that in the summer of 2019 will make it the first Italian region to have eliminated disposable plastic from the beaches.* It is almost superfluous to point out how much the EU directive will benefit our territory. Not only will it protect the health of coastal ecosystems and citizens, but it will also help to preserve the extraordinary natural architecture of our island, a beauty that is both cultural and economic value, identity and well-being.

For this reason, Mr President, we ask you and the Regional Council to link Sardinia to the forefront of good environmental policies, certain that you will be able to listen to and accompany the Sardinian people in the small steps that lead to a sustainable future.