

# Press release

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## Viking Line donates 25,000 euros to Roska-Roope, a unique boat that cleans waterways

Viking Line has donated 25,000 euros to the Finnish environmental organization Keep the Archipelago Tidy Association for the purchase of its rubbish-collecting boat Roska-Roope. Roska-Roope runs solely on electric power and picks up waste floating in the sea. The boat helps to remind people that none of the rubbish they produce belongs in waterways.

Surveys show that more than 80% of the rubbish in the world's seas comes from land-based sources. Over the years, Viking Line has supported the Keep the Archipelago Tidy Association. This support makes it possible for the association to carry out its basic task – that is, keeping waterways clean, providing waste management in different parts of the Baltic Sea archipelagos and carrying out information and communication work related to the environment. Roska-Roope is the latest innovation from the Keep the Archipelago Tidy Association. The boat, which began its work in late May, cost 100,000 euros and was built by Alpo Pro Boats Oy, a manufacturer of aluminium boats based in Raumo, Finland.

“The well-being of the Baltic Sea is something very close to the heart of the people at Viking Line. The sea gives us our livelihood, and it is important for us that it is healthy. We want to be a pioneer in finding and using new solutions that reduce the impact on the environment,” says Viking Line’s senior vice president of corporate communications, Johanna Boijer-Svahnström.

There are many kinds of rubbish collection boats in the world, but none like the new Roska-Roope. The boat runs solely on electricity and uses solar power, among other sources. Roska-Roope will make appearances at various summer events across Finland. In addition to collecting rubbish, the boat has another task: reminding people that none of the rubbish they produce belongs in waterways.

“We have studied the littering of Finland’s shores since 2012. A large share of the rubbish in the sea and in waterways originates on land. With plastic rubbish, like all rubbish, people have to be very careful and make sure that it always ends up in an appropriate waste bin, and preferably properly sorted. Plastic as such is not a problem, but it is when it ends up in nature, and we all have a great responsibility in

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that respect,” says Aija Kaski, secretary-general of the Keep the Archipelago Tidy Association.

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