

Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change  
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Mr. Roderick Galdes, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights

Copy:

HS Ms. Marlene Bonnici - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative (Coreper II)  
HS Mr. Neil Kerr – Ambassador Deputy Permanent Representative (Coreper I)  
Mr. Richard Bilocca – Fisheries Attaché, Permanent Representation to the European Union

Subject: Request for meeting to discuss the fisheries policy priorities of the upcoming  
Maltese Presidency

Brussels, November 30<sup>th</sup> 2016

Your Excellency,

In preparation for the Maltese 2017 presidency of the Council of the European Union, we would welcome the opportunity to meet for a constructive exchange of views between you and our group of civil society representatives working on fisheries policy. We welcome that maritime affairs will be one of the key priorities of the Maltese presidency. In particular, we are interested in the priorities of the upcoming Maltese presidency in the fisheries policy area.

BirdLife, ClientEarth, Fisheries Secretariat, Greenpeace, the New Economics Foundation, Oceana, Seas At Risk, The Pew Charitable Trusts and WWF represent a large number of EU citizens through individual membership, groups and networks of environmental organisations. We are engaged in EU fisheries-related policy processes and are particularly interested in seeing a timely and correct implementation of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), including its external dimension.

As with previous presidencies, we would be delighted to meet you and your staff, ideally prior to the start of your presidency, thereby continuing the now “traditional” exchange on fisheries policy issues between incoming presidencies and NGOs.

Given that you will lead the Council negotiations on the North Sea Multi-Annual Plan and the Technical Measures Regulation, we would like to discuss these files, as well as the revision of the Fishing

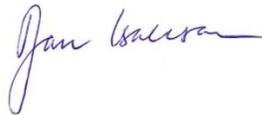
Authorisation Regulation and the recast of the Data Collection Framework regulation, in order to strengthen these regulations and put them in line with the objectives of the CFP. We are looking forward to Maltese leadership on the Mediterranean Sea, where fish stocks are currently overfished at an alarming rate of over 90%, and to an ambitious, robust and tangible roadmap for recovery to be announced in the Valletta political declaration. We would also like to discuss the next meeting of the UN Preparatory Committee for the new UNCLOS implementing agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, which is likely to take place during the Maltese presidency.

We look forward to discussing your availabilities, and to a productive exchange on these above issues in the context of your Presidency. Please respond to Vera Coelho (vcoelho@pewtrusts.org) to set a suitable date and time for a joint meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Uta Bellion  
Director  
European Marine Programme  
The Pew Charitable Trusts



Jan Isakson  
Director  
The Fisheries Secretariat



Monica Verbeek  
Executive Director  
Seas At Risk



Aniol Esteban  
Programme Director  
New Economics Foundation (NEF)



Lasse Gustavsson  
Executive Director  
Oceana in Europe



Catherine Weller  
Head of Programme, Biodiversity  
ClientEarth



Geneviève Pons  
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WWF European Policy Office



Ariel Brunner  
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BirdLife Europe and Central Asia