



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 30th 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

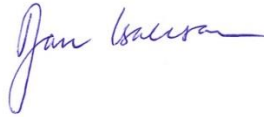
Authorisation Regulation and the recast of the Data Collection Framework regulation, in order to strengthen these regulations and put them in line with the objectives of the CFP. We are looking forward to Maltese leadership on the Mediterranean Sea, where fish stocks are currently overfished at an alarming 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
Director
WWF European Policy Office



Ariel Brunner
Senior Head of Policy
BirdLife Europe and Central Asia