



Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic
Minister Matecna Gabriela
Dobrovičova 12
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Slovak Republic

Copy: Peter Javorčík – Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the EU

Subject: Live Streaming of the Fisheries Council exchanges of views on Fishing Opportunities for 2017 & meeting with environmental organisations

Brussels, August 12th 2016

Your Excellency,

During the upcoming Agriculture and Fisheries Council meetings in October, November and December, the Council is scheduled to decide under your leadership on fishing opportunities for 2017, and on fishing opportunities for deep sea stocks for 2017 and 2018.

The reformed Common Fisheries Policy requires sustainable fishing limits to be set by 2015 where possible, and on a progressive and incremental basis at the latest by 2020 for all stocks. Yet, progress to end overfishing in line with the CFP objectives has so far been limited. With more than 60% of assessed stocks outside safe biological limits and nearly half of stocks subject to overfishing¹, additional efforts are needed to restore stocks to healthy levels.

Fish stocks are a public resource and there is strong public interest to see that they are sustainably managed. Whilst we appreciate there is no legal requirement to stream all Council debates, we ask that you use the opportunities provided for the presidency by Article 8 2009/937/EU to propose to the Council of Permanent Representatives live streaming of the Ministers' first exchanges of views on fishing opportunities.

As a landlocked country without direct interest in wild fisheries, Slovakia is ideally positioned to enhance transparency of the Council discussions surrounding fishing limits and to act as honest broker on the implementation of the CFP. Streaming exchanges on issues of public interest facilitates enhanced transparency and motivates greater stakeholder involvement, thus contributing to the Slovak Presidency aims to restore citizens' confidence in the common European project.

¹ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) Monitoring the performance of the Common Fisheries Policy \(STECF-16-05\)](#).

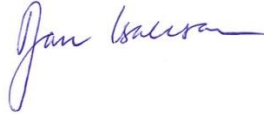
Last but not least, we would highly appreciate meeting with you at a mutually convenient time to discuss salient issues around the upcoming decisions on fishing opportunities, if possible in Brussels, or else in Bratislava.

We look forward to discussing your availabilities, and to a productive exchange on the above named issues in the context of your Presidency. Please respond to Cathrine Schirmer (cschirmer@pewtrusts.org) to set a suitable date and time.

Yours sincerely,



Uta Bellion
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European Marine Programme
The Pew Charitable Trusts



Jan Isakson
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