



**To:** Giovanni La Via (MEP, EPP, Chair of the ENVI Committee) & group coordinators

**Subject:** ENVI Opinion on North Sea Multi Annual Fisheries Plan proposal

Brussels, 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2016

Dear Mr. La Via,  
Dear group coordinators,

Given your role as Chair and group coordinators of the ENVI Committee, we write to you concerning the co-legislative process of the future Multi-Annual Plans (MAPs) for fisheries management. We, the undersigned NGOs, are campaigning for the correct and timely implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) with a view to ensure a rapid recovery of EU fish stocks and a healthy marine environment.

A new CFP came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2014. During the reform process, the ENVI Committee played an important role as Opinion Committee in strengthening the Commission's proposal, in particular with regards to ensuring coherence with environmental legislation, such as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive, as well as with international commitments made by the EU such as the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The new CFP contains a number of measures and tools aiming to achieve sustainable exploitation of marine resources. One of them is the development of regional Multi-Annual Plans. These plans are intended to reduce the impact of fishing on the wider marine environment and include measures designed to avoid and reduce unwanted catches as well as linkages with other conservation measures to minimise the negative impact of fishing on the ecosystem.

A first MAP was agreed earlier this year concerning certain stocks of the Baltic Sea. During the co-legislative process of the Baltic MAP proposal, the ENVI Committee unfortunately did not provide an opinion. In our view, the agreed Baltic MAP lacks concrete conservation measures which would effectively reduce the impact of fishing on the wider environment or increase more selective and sustainable fishing.

A number of future MAPs are in the pipeline. On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Commission published a MAP for the North Sea. The North Sea is an important fishing region and hosts a rich ecosystem of marine species including fish, sea birds, seals, dolphins and whales, and invertebrates that interact with each other. It is therefore essential that a future North Sea MAP contains specific measures to introduce ecosystem-

based fisheries management, to minimise and reduce the impact of fisheries on the wider marine environment and to ensure that it is fully coherent with existing EU environmental legislation.

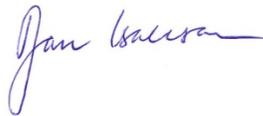
We believe that the ENVI committee can play a vital role in strengthening the content of future MAPs, starting with the North Sea plan, by acting as Opinion Committee during the co-legislative procedure. There are clear links between the ENVI Committee competences and the scope and contents, as described in the CFP, of future proposed MAPs. We therefore encourage you, as chair and coordinators of the ENVI committee, to request that the ENVI Committee be appointed as Opinion Committee on the Commission proposal for a North Sea MAP.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us for further information.

Yours sincerely,



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