



Minister Gabriela Matečná  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic  
Dobrovičova 12  
812 66 Bratislava  
Slovak Republic

Brussels, November 16<sup>th</sup> 2016

Subject: Live Streaming of Fisheries Council exchange of views on Fishing Opportunities for 2017

Your Excellency,

During the upcoming Agriculture and Fisheries (AgriFish) Council meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of December, the Council is scheduled to decide under your leadership on fishing opportunities for Atlantic and North Sea stocks for 2017.

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 overfishing<sup>1</sup>, 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. Live streaming would also be in line with the requirement of the Aarhus Regulation<sup>2</sup> to ensure that environmental information is made publicly available and widely disseminated, which also applies to the Council.

We addressed a similar request to you on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August, and we were disappointed to obtain no reply. We therefore re-iterate our request to the Slovak Presidency to live stream the exchange of views on Fishing Opportunities for 2017 at the upcoming AgriFish Council meeting. Streaming exchanges on issues of public interest facilitates enhanced transparency and motivates greater stakeholder

---

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

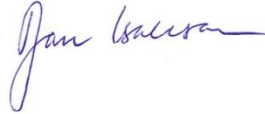
<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1367/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 September 2006 on the application of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters to Community institutions and bodies, OJL 264, 25.09.2006, p. 13.

involvement, thus contributing to the Slovak Presidency aims to restore citizens' confidence in the common European project.

Yours sincerely,



Uta Bellion  
Director  
European Marine Programme  
The Pew Charitable Trusts



Jan Isakson  
Director  
The Fisheries Secretariat



Ariel Brunner  
Senior Head of Policy  
BirdLife Europe and Central Asia



Aniol Esteban  
Programme Director  
New Economics Foundation (NEF)



Lasse Gustavsson  
Executive Director  
Oceana in Europe



Catherine Weller  
Head of Biodiversity Programme  
ClientEarth



Geneviève Pons  
Director  
WWF European Policy Office



Monica Verbeek  
Executive Director  
Seas At Risk