



Minister Jānis Dūklavs
Minister of Agriculture
Republikas laukums 2
Rīga, 1981
Latvia

Subject: Live Streaming of the Fisheries Council exchange of views on Commission
Communication on Fishing Opportunities for 2016

Brussels, 1st June 2015

Dear Minister Dūklavs,

During the upcoming June Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting under the Latvian Presidency, the Commission is scheduled to present its Communication on Fishing Opportunities for 2016. Setting correct fishing opportunities is fundamental to achieving the objectives of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), namely to end overfishing and to restore and maintain fish stocks above levels capable of producing the Maximum Sustainable Yield.

Whilst there is no legal requirement to stream all debates, streaming exchanges on issues of public interest facilitates enhanced transparency and motivates greater stakeholder involvement. We greatly appreciated, last year, the Italian Presidency's initiative to stream the discussion on the presentation of the Commission's Communication on Fishing Opportunities for 2015, in line with 2009/937/EU Article 8. We now invite the Latvian Presidency to repeat that initiative, enabling greater transparency and public participation as enshrined in the Treaty of Lisbon¹, United Nation's Århus Convention² and the CFP³ by streaming the June roundtable exchange.

We look forward to your response to the above request. In the meantime, if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Uta Bellion, Director, European Marine Programme, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Angelo Caserta, Regional Director, BirdLife Europe and Central Asia

Lasse Gustavsson, Executive Director, Oceana in Europe

Tony Long, WWF European Policy Office

Sandy Luk, Head of the Biodiversity Programme, ClientEarth

Saskia Richartz, EU Oceans Policy Director and Acting Managing Director, Greenpeace EU

Monica Verbeek, Executive Director, Seas At Risk

¹ The Treaty of Lisbon confirms three principles of democratic governance in Europe: Democratic equality, Representative democracy and Participatory democracy (http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/glance/democracy/).

² Pillar II Public Participation In Decision-Making Articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Århus Convention

³ Common Fisheries Policy [regulation \(eu\) no 1380/2013](#) Article 3 (f))