



Mr. Siim-Valmar Kiisler - Minister for the Environment of the Republic of Estonia
Narva mnt 7a
15172 Tallinn
Tallinn, ESTONIA

Subject: Live Streaming of the Fisheries Council exchange of views on Commission
Communication on Fishing Opportunities for 2018

Brussels, 26th June 2017

Dear Minister Kiisler,

During the upcoming July Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting under the Estonian Presidency, the Commission is scheduled to present its Communication on Fishing Opportunities for 2018. Setting correct fishing opportunities is fundamental to achieving the objectives of the 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 invite the Estonian Presidency to take the initiative and enable greater transparency and public participation as enshrined in the Treaty of Lisbon¹, United Nation's Århus Convention² and the CFP³ by streaming the July 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

Jan Isakson
Director
The Fisheries Secretariat

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))



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