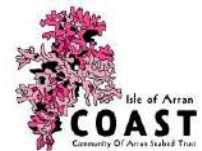


Amigos de la Tierra







Coordinadora Ecoloxista d'Asturies



Members of the  
European Parliament  
60, rue Wiertz  
1047 Brussels  
Belgium

RE: Maintaining the EU ban on subsidies for the construction of fishing vessels

Brussels, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

On 22 March, the European Parliament Fisheries Committee will vote on its draft own-initiative report on the “Management of the fishing fleets in the outermost regions”<sup>1</sup>. This report will subsequently be voted on in the plenary on 28 April. **We, the undersigned organisations, ask you to express your support for the 2014 Parliament position that maintained the ban on subsidies for the construction of new fishing vessels, which has existed in the EU since 2004. We therefore ask you to oppose attempts to re-introduce subsidies for the construction of fishing vessels in this draft Parliament report.**

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal on the ocean and seas (SDG 14)<sup>2</sup> calls explicitly for the elimination of subsidies that contribute to overfishing by 2020. And rightly so: it is estimated that taxpayers spend some US\$30 billion a year on fisheries subsidies around the world, 60% of which directly encourage unsustainable, destructive and even illegal practices.<sup>3</sup> That is why the EU successfully phased out aid for the construction of new vessels over a decade ago and is actively advocating in the negotiations in the World Trade Organization to prohibit fisheries subsidies that contribute to over-capacity and overfishing.

Attempts to reintroduce subsidies for the construction of new vessels, even if small scale or located in remote areas, undermine the objectives of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy to end overfishing, and send the wrong political signal from the EU to leaders around the world. We therefore urge you to honour the Common Fisheries Policy, particularly the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Regulation, and oppose any attempt to reintroduce subsidies for the construction of new fishing vessels.

Civil Society will be watching closely to see how the Parliament votes on this issue and in view of the public interest in this matter we will be making this letter available to the media in the coming days.

We wish to thank you in advance for your support for sustainable fisheries and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Yours sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> 2016/2016(INI) Management of the fishing fleets in the outermost regions

<sup>2</sup> Resolution adopted by the United National General Assembly on 25 September 2015: “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*” Goal 14 “*Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*”.

<sup>3</sup> Sumaila et. al (2016) “Global fisheries subsidies: An updated estimate” in Marine Policy.

Uta Bellion  
Director EU Marine Programme  
The Pew Charitable Trusts

Ariel Brunner  
Senior Head of Policy  
BirdLife Europe and Central Asia

Saskia Richartz  
Deputy Director  
Greenpeace European Unit

Catherine Weller  
Head of Biodiversity Programme  
ClientEarth

Samuel Stone  
Head of Fisheries and  
Aquaculture  
Marine Conservation Society

Monica Verbeek  
Executive Director  
Seas At Risk

Aniol Esteban  
Programme Director  
New Economics Foundation

Geneviève Pons  
Director  
WWF European Policy Office

Lasse Gustavsson  
Executive Director  
Oceana in Europe

Jan Isakson  
Director  
The Fisheries Secretariat

Claire Nouvian  
Director  
BLOOM

Víctor Barro  
President  
Friends of the Earth Spain

Steve Trent  
Executive Director  
Environmental Justice Foundation

Eneko Aierbe  
Fisheries Director  
Ecologistas en Acción

Christine Absil  
Director Fisheries  
Good Fish Foundation

Lydia Chaparro Elias  
Marine coordinator  
Fundació ENT

Jürgen Maier  
Director  
German NGO Forum on  
Environment and Development

Tobias Reichert  
Team Leader World Food, Land use  
and Trade  
Germanwatch

Michael Leth Jess  
Vicedirector  
The Danish Society For Nature  
Conservation

Oonagh Duggan  
Acting Head of Policy,  
Communications and People  
Engagement  
BirdWatch Ireland

Ana Matias  
Coordinator for Fisheries  
Sciaena - Marine Sciences and  
Cooperation Association

Karen Sack  
Managing Director  
Ocean Unite

Johanna Sandahl  
Chair of the Board  
Swedish Society for Nature  
Conservation

Irene Kingma  
General Director  
Nederlandse Elasmobranchen  
Vereniging

Jeremy Wates  
Secretary General  
EEB

Gonçalo Carvalho  
Coordinator  
PONG-Pesca – Plataforma de ONG  
Portuguesas sobre as Pescas

Matthew Gianni  
Co-founder, Political and Policy  
Advisor Deep Sea Conservation  
Coalition

Domitilla Senni  
Vice-Chair  
MedReAct

Dr. Georg Heiss  
Director  
Reef Check Germany

Tristram Lewis  
Director  
Funding FISH

Howard Wood  
Chair  
COAST (Community of Arran  
Seabed Trust)

Tito Rosa  
President of Board of Directors  
Liga para a Protecção da Natureza

Pádraic Fogarty  
Campaign Officer  
Irish Wildlife Trust

Ulrich Karlowski  
Board member  
Gesellschaft zur Rettung der Delphine

Dr. Ursula Hudson  
Chair  
Slow Food Deutschland e. V.

John Hourston  
Founder  
Blue Planet Society

Charles Millar  
Executive Director  
Sustainable Inshore Fisheries  
Trust

Fintan Kelly  
Natural Environment Officer  
An Taisce

Billo Heinzpeter Studer  
President  
Fair Fish

ΔΙΚΤΥΟ ΜΕΣΟΓΕΙΟΥΣ SOS  
ΣΩΜΑΤΕΙΟ ΜΗ ΚΕΡΑΙΟΣΚΟΠΙΚΟ  
ΜΑΜΑΝ 35 - ΑΘΗΝΑ 104 40  
ΑΦΜ: 090190776 - ΔΟΥ: Α' ΑΘΗΝΩΝ  
ΤΗΛ: 210 8228795

Kostis Grimanis  
Marine & Coastal Zone  
Management  
Projects Co-ordinator  
MEDITERRANEAN SOS Network

Dr. Sandra Altherr  
Co-Founder  
ProWildlife e.V.

Edoardo Brodasca  
President  
Posidonia Green Project

Dr. Jarosław Krogulec  
Head of Conservation  
Polish Society for the Protection of  
Birds

Fabian Ritter  
President  
M.E.E.R. e.V.

Sigrid Lueber  
President  
OceanCare

Ulrike Kirsch  
Foundation Board  
Deutsche Stiftung Meeresschutz

Mr. Sławomir Brzózec  
Board President  
Our Earth Foundation

Rosalba Giugni  
President  
Marevivo

Cristina Fernández Gil  
Administradora  
Oceanográfica

Plataforma para la  
defensa del litoral  
DEL SURESTE DE  
GRAN CANARIA

Oscar Manuel Santana Garcia  
Secretario  
Asociación Plataforma para la defensa  
del litoral del Sureste de Gran  
Canaria.

Klaus Seitz  
Head of Policy Department  
Bread for the World-Protestant  
Development Service

Prof. Dr. Ralph Schill  
Member of the Board  
Verband Deutscher Sporttaucher e.V.

Alejandro Peláez Leizaola  
President  
Grupu d'Ornitología MAVEA

Frank Schweikert  
Founder and CEO  
German Ocean Foundation

Harry Neumann  
Chairman  
Nature Protection Initiative r.A

Franziska Walter  
Executive Director Germany  
Whale and Dolphin Conservation

Karin Dubsy  
International Coordinator  
Coastwatch Europe

Michael Ewing  
Coordinator  
The Environmental Pillar



Marika Panagiotou  
Scientific Research Manager  
Archipelagos Institute of Marine  
Conservation

Nadja Ziebarth  
Head of the Marine Conservation  
BUND

Mr. Garry Kendellen  
Marketing & DLP Manager  
Galway Atlantaquaria

Björn Klusmann  
Managing Director  
Forum Ökologisch-Soziale  
Marktwirtschaft e.V. (FÖS)

Stephen Eades  
Director  
Marinet Limited

Marta Gumà Bondia  
President  
Lliga per a la Defensa del Patrimoni  
Natural

Claire Christian  
Interim Executive Director  
Antarctic and Southern Ocean  
Coalition

Anselm Görres  
President  
Green Budget Europe

Maya Plass  
Founder  
Learn to Sea

Pedro Fernández Bautista  
Secretary General  
EUCC Mediterranean Centre

Valeska Diemel  
Chair  
The Black Fish Deutschland e.V.

Àlex Bartolí  
Partner and Founder member  
SUBMON

Johnny Woodlock  
Spokesperson  
The Irish Seal Sanctuary

Gill Weyman  
Chair  
Cork Nature Network

Endrik Tönsberg  
Chairman of the Board  
Estonian Sportfishing Federation

Mr. Artur Furdyna  
President of Towarzystwo Przyjaciół  
Rzek Iny i Gowienicy

Jacek Bożek  
President  
Klub Gaja

Bernadette Connolly  
Development Coordinator  
Cork Environmental Forum

Fructuoso Pontigo Concha  
President  
Coordinadora Ecoloxista  
d'Asturies

Joan Edwards  
Head of Living Seas  
The Wildlife Trusts

Kai Kaschinski  
Chairman  
Project coordinator  
Fair Oceans

Joana Andrade  
Coordinator of the Marine  
Conservation Department  
SPEA

Marlene Marques  
President of the Board  
GEOTA – Grupo de Estudos de  
Ordenamento do Território e  
Ambiente

Dr. Cornelia E. Nauen  
President  
Mundus maris - Sciences and Arts for  
Sustainability

Luís Alves – President  
APECE – Associação Portuguesa  
para o Estudo e Conservação dos  
Elasmobrânquios

Carla Dâmaso  
Member of the Board  
OMA – Observatório do Mar dos  
Açores

João Branco  
President of the National Board  
Quercus

Sascha Müller-Kraenner  
CEO  
Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V.

Mr. Dariusz Szwed  
Head of Programme Council  
Green Institute

Z upoważnienia Zarządu Paweł  
Pawlaczyk  
Klub Przyrodników

Nils Höglund  
Fisheries Policy Officer  
Coalition Clean Baltic

Emma Soy Massoni  
Presidenta  
Associació de Naturalistes de Girona  
(ANG)

Shane Holland  
Executive Chairman  
Slow Food in the UK

Mr. Marek Budniak  
President of the Board  
Aquarius Foundation

Pat Ó Súilleabháin  
General Manager  
National SEA LIFE Bray

Ms. Maria Staniszewska  
Polish Ecological Club

Dr Richard Benwell  
Head of Government Affairs  
Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust  
(WWT)

Kate Metcalf  
Co-Director  
Women's Environmental Network  
(WEN)

Carlos Lastra López  
Presidente  
Asociación Asturiana de Amigos  
de la Naturaleza-ANA

Mr. Tapani Veistola  
Senior advisor  
Finnish Association for Nature  
Conservation

Erik Bjørn Olsen  
Chief Financial Officer  
Danish Society for a Living Sea

Ali Hood  
Director of Conservation  
Shark Trust