



MAROŠ ŠEFČOVIČ
Executive Vice-President for
European Green Deal,
Interinstitutional Relations and
Foresight

Brussels, 11.11.2024
Ares (2024)9117111

Dear Minister,

Thank you very much for your letter. Also from my side, I would like to thank you for your engagement and the fruitful discussions we had in the framework of the EU-Norway High Level Dialogue on Fisheries and Ocean Governance on 11 October 2024.

I take note of your reference to the political understanding of April 2022 between the European Union and Norway in relation to the fisheries in ICES areas 1 and 2, including the Fisheries Protection Zone around Svalbard. Regarding counting all catches and by-catches of cod (including in international waters) against the EU quota, I recall the letter sent on 26 April 2023 by Commissioner Sinkevičius.

I welcome the decision taken by Norway, on the basis of our High-Level dialogue, to set a quota of cod to the European Union at the level of 2,8274 % of the reference total allowable catch (TAC). This equates to 9217 tonnes for 2025. I welcome the decision to continue that approach in 2026 and the following years. On this basis, the European Commission will propose to the Council of the EU to adopt a corresponding quota for cod for EU vessels fishing in ICES 1 and 2. I am sure this will help further reinforce our cooperation on fisheries management at multilateral and bilateral level between the European Union and Norway.

I am pleased that through the High-Level dialogue we have identified a set of management measures that would improve sustainable management of marine living resources in ICES areas 1 and 2. The European Commission will propose that the European Union endorses, at the 2024 Annual Meeting, a proposal submitted by Norway for adoption by NEAFC on redfish in international waters of ICES subareas 1 and 2 at 5.9% of the TAC. The European Commission will propose that the EU subsequently adopts a corresponding quota in EU regulations for 2025.

Espen Barth Eide
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Government of Norway

In addition, to further reinforce transparency, the European Union also proposes that the data on by-catches in shrimp fisheries in international waters in ICES division 1a by EU vessels, which is sent to NEAFC, would simultaneously be made available to Norway.

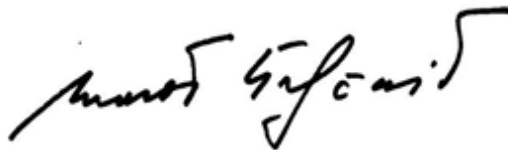
I note that in the course of the High-Level Dialogue we discussed the EU's and Norway's positions on the NEAFC decision on the use of collecting bags in ICES areas 1 and 2, but that we were not able to reach a common view on this.

I welcome Norway's assurance that the Norwegian Head of Delegation will exchange information and discuss relevant management decisions with their counterpart ahead of the Annual Meetings of NEAFC. I confirm that the EU Head of Delegation will engage with their Norwegian counterpart in the same manner.

I can confirm the European Commission's willingness to continue our cooperation based on the measures outlined above for the years to come.

Let me again thank you for our cooperation through the EU-Norway High Level Dialogue. I believe this ad hoc high-level forum has proved valuable in finding a way forward on a number of matters of shared concern. If needed, I stand ready to meet again in this format to address, step by step, difficult issues in the area of fisheries, as part of an otherwise very good relationship.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jørgen Lunde". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.