

Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius  
Environment, Oceans and Fisheries  
European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels - Belgium

Houten, September 29, 2020

Subject: Dumping of boulders by Greenpeace

Dear Commissioner,

On behalf of the Dutch Strategic European Fisheries Consultation<sup>1</sup> we call on you to condemn the recent actions of Greenpeace in which boulders are dumped in the North Sea – and in July in the Baltic Sea – and to take firm action against this in the future.

Greenpeace has taken matters into its own hands by dumping huge boulders in Marine Protected Areas to stop bottom trawling vessels entering these areas. Bottom trawling is not illegal at the Doggersbank. Therefore, the actions of Greenpeace are dangerous and disproportionate. This week's dumping in the Doggersbank is even illegal, because no objects or waste may be dumped there according to the international OSPAR convention, which aims to protect the environment.

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<sup>1</sup> This consultation aims to find each other quickly and to draw an adequate line when it comes to European policy-making. Various Dutch MEP's as well as representatives of fishing organizations, such as VisNed, the Dutch Fishermen's Union, the Dutch Fish Processors and Traders Federation, RVZ and Europêche are part of this consultation. Other participants: the Administrative Platform Fisheries, the Province of Flevoland and the Municipality of Urk.

In addition, the Netherlands is the flag state of the Greenpeace ship Esperanza. As long as the Netherlands has not agreed to the dumping, it should not have taken place.

We ask you to do whatever possible to stop these controversial Greenpeace campaigns. For instance: we fear for the crews of the vessels should their gear become entangled. Greenpeace does not need to make the work of the fishers even more dangerous.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter van Dalen (MEP EPP)  
Chair of the Dutch Strategic European Fisheries Consultation

Bert-Jan Ruissen (MEP ECR)

Annie Schreijer-Pierik (MEP EPP)