



FISKIMÁLARÁÐIÐ

15 December 2013

Ms Maria Damanaki
Member of the European Commission
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
B-1046 Brussels
Belgium

Dear Commissioner,

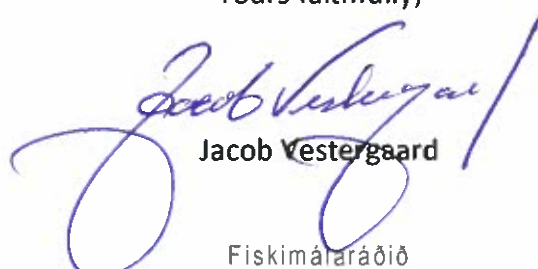
Let me first thank you for your open and constructive approach to the mackerel issue. Our discussions in the Faroe Islands earlier this week were indeed helpful for the further negotiation process regarding this shared stock.

During our very first meeting in Miðvágur last Wednesday, you proposed that the Faroe Islands and Iceland should have an identical share of mackerel in terms of the allocation key. Your proposal was reiterated during our second and final meeting in Tórshavn last Thursday.

Since Thursday, I have carefully considered your proposal, and in due course drawn the conclusion that I cannot accept a future Faroese share of mackerel, which is identical to a future Icelandic share and far below 15 per cent of the TAC. As I clearly stated during our discussions earlier this week, there has to be a gap between these two coastal states' future shares of mackerel, which is in favour of the Faroe Islands. It is my firm position that the Faroe Islands as a core coastal state should be treated as such in a future sharing arrangement for mackerel.

Notwithstanding my position, I kindly call upon you to continue your admirable efforts to identify a solution to this complex issue. I would also like to reassure you that I strongly support you in your endeavour to find a compromise between the coastal states, as far as a future sharing arrangement for mackerel is concerned. Finally, I would like to emphasise that the Faroe Islands will continue to participate actively in the pursuit of reaching an agreement.

Yours faithfully,



Jacob Vestergaard

Fiskimálaráðið