



ROYAL NORWEGIAN  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

*Minister of Foreign Affairs*

Oslo, 8 November 2024

Dear Mr Executive Vice-President

Let me first of all thank you for fruitful discussions during the second meeting in the High Level dialogue on fisheries and ocean governance in Brussels on 11 October.

When this dialogue was launched at the initiative of Prime Minister Støre and President von der Leyen earlier this year, it was with the aim of untangling the differences of opinion with respect to fisheries in Svalbard waters and in international waters in the Barents and Norwegian Sea that arose between Norway and the EU in the aftermath of Brexit.

Norway would like to recall 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. I also recall the letter sent on 26 April 2023 by Commissioner Sinkevičius regarding counting all catches and by-catches of cod (including in international waters) against the quota to the EU.

On the basis of our High Level dialogue Norway will 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 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. I look forward to the support of the EU in NEAFC for the Norwegian proposal for redfish to be fished by the NEAFC contracting parties in the NEAFC Regulatory Area of ICES 1 and 2 at 5.9% of the TAC for 2025.

Maroš Šefčovič

Executive Vice-President of the European Commission

Brussels

I note that in the course of the High Level Dialogue we discussed Norway's and the EU'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.

With respect to the annual meetings in NEAFC, I can assure you that the Norwegian Head of Delegation looks forward to exchanging information and discussing relevant management decisions with the EU's Head of Delegation prior to the NEAFC annual meetings.

For Norway's part I can confirm our 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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Espen Barth Eide". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Espen Barth Eide