

[REDACTED] (ENV)

From: [REDACTED] (ENV)
Sent: 28 February 2020 14:36
To: [REDACTED] (ENV)
Subject: FW: Basis (CAB SINKEVICIUS/141) - Bilateral with minister Schouten (8) - New request to a leader for contribution [Deadline: 09/03/2020 18:00]

FYI

From: [REDACTED] (ENV)
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 1:40 PM
To: [REDACTED] (ENV); [REDACTED] (ENV); [REDACTED] (ENV); [REDACTED] (ENV); [REDACTED] (MARE); [REDACTED] (ENV)
Cc: [REDACTED] (ENV)
Subject: RE: Basis (CAB SINKEVICIUS/141) - Bilateral with minister Schouten (8) - New request to a leader for contribution [Deadline: 09/03/2020 18:00]

Further to my mail, I copy here the debrief some of us got from our Director Humberto who was present at the meeting on the 17/02 (I am not sure if fisheries/marine issues were at all discussed as they are not mentioned by him.):

Meeting between C.ier and NL Minister Schouten, 17/2/2020

Presences:

C.ier VS

[REDACTED]

Humberto Delgado Rosa

NL:

Minister K Schouten

(4 others)

Intro:

- C.ier started by setting the stage on the context of the EUGD and its deliverables, and on the set of new solutions and approaches needed. On biodiversity he referred to clashes coming on land-use related issues, the need to systemic change and to find common ground leaving no one behind. The EU needs to lead on CBD COP15, and the CAP proposal should not be watered down in its environmental ambition.
- Minister KS referred to systemic discussions around agriculture in NL, including in view of bringing it to a circularity approach. Limits are being reached, there's the need for a transition. There's a matter of trust of the sector on inclusiveness, an integrated approach is needed. On CAP, NL thinks that conditionality is not enough, more ambition is needed.

Nitrates:

- Minister KS referred to the need for a quick derogation. NL had recently sent a letter replying on queries about the manure fraud enforcement and now expects a quick referral of the derogation to the Nitrates Committee in early March. She added that NL had put in place a very successful pig reduction program that would amount to minus 8 to 10% pigs in one year. The issue of bad quality of water had been due to the drought of last year and was now improving. Farmlands under derogation actually fare better thanks to the grasslands they keep, and she would fear a move to arable land if the derogation remained delayed or uncertain.

- HDR clarified that it was too late for the Nitrates Committee of March, so June would be the next available.
- Minister KS asked if an extra Committee could be foreseen, DG ENV is to provide feedback to NL counterparts.

CBD:

- C.ier VS explained the context on target setting at UE level to ensure leadership at CBD level, referring that there could be a legally binding initiative addressing restoration.

Natura 2000:

- C.ier VS referred that it was important to preserve Natura 2000, expressing concern about the NL approach to revise Natura 2000 sites.
- Minister KS explained about the difficult political context raised by the national court judgement that cancelled the so called PAN approach based on future nitrates reductions. She said that the quality of Natura 2000 was important and that there would be money available for a program for the recovery of nature, and added that limitations to important activities such as housing and traveling didn't bring good will of public opinion for nature protection.
- HDR clarified that the PAN approach was not required by the nature directives but was rather a NL option.
- Minister KS said that in any case it was the situation she had in hands, and added that half of the nitrogen affecting NL was coming from neighboring countries. She was concerned that pig farms were now moving to Belgium in sequence of the NL program to reduce pig numbers.
- C.ier VS said that we were enforcing the Nitrates Directive in other countries too. We should ban bad subsidies and rather penalize bad practices and incentivize good practices. He said that it was difficult to find a balance, which is way land-use was such a critical issue.

From: [REDACTED] (ENV)

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 10:59 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Basis (CAB SINKEVICIUS/141) - Bilateral with minister Schouten (8) - New request to a leader for contribution [Deadline: 09/03/2020 18:00]

Dear Colleagues,

We need to update the briefing prepared for the previous bilateral meeting for the upcoming one on 19 March and you seem to be the contributors (again).

I attach FYI the previous full briefing including already my planned updated contribution. As you can see it was very long... so please try and weed out as much text as possible from all sections.

As we have so many of us involved it is best to use Basis for the contributions the same way you did last time.

I will be on leave at the end of next week from mid-day of the 5th March, so if any of you could manage to send the contribution before that it would be much appreciated.

Thank you in advance

[REDACTED]

From: EC-Basis <ec-basis@ec.europa.eu>

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 10:34 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Basis (CAB SINKEVICIUS/141) - Bilateral with minister Schouten (8) - New request to a leader for contribution [Deadline: 09/03/2020 18:00]

You have been appointed as contributor "leader" for the request CAB SINKEVICIUS/141.

Event info:

Date: 19/03/2020 07:00 - 20/03/2020 18:00

Type of event: Country Visit -

Group:

Place: The Netherlands

Description: Mission to the he Netherlands

Comment:

DG Participant: To_Be_Confirmed -

Request info:

Request ID: CAB SINKEVICIUS/141

Request for: Commissioner Sinkevicius

Documents: Briefing

Importance: Normal

Manager: [REDACTED]

Contact: [REDACTED]

Subject: Bilateral with minister Schouten

Please update the recent briefing (also on the nitrates cases)

Comment: During the mission to The Netherlands Commissioner will have 10 different mtg/events. See attached the draft programme of the mission.

Your deadline: **09/03/2020 18:00**

Your
leader/coordinator:

Your subject:

Requested by: [REDACTED]

Comment from
requester:

This is an autogenerated message. Please do not reply

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