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Member of the European Commission
Environment

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Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Brussels, 10 06. 2010
D(2010)448

Ms Isabella Lövin, MEP
Mr Raul Romeva Rueda, MEP
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
1047 Brussels

Dear Ms Lövin,
Dear Mr Rueda,

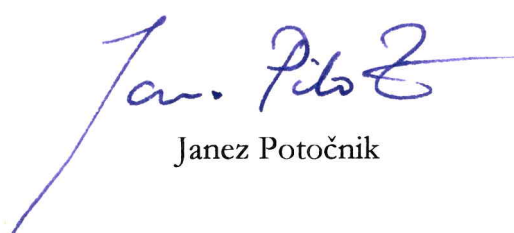
Thank you for your letter of 25 March 2010 concerning Atlantic bluefin tuna.

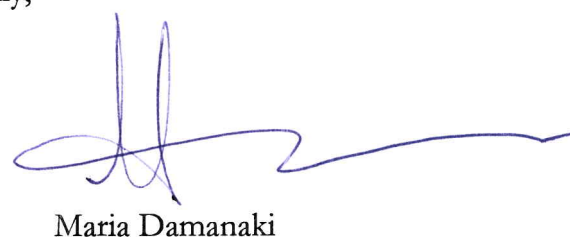
The Commission regrets that the EU proposal to include Atlantic bluefin tuna into CITES Appendix I was not agreed at the CITES CoP and notes there was consensus at the CITES CoP on the worrying conservation situation of Atlantic bluefin tuna.

The Council Decision adopted on 11 March ahead of the CITES meeting contains a strong commitment and the Commission remains committed to the adoption of the necessary and appropriate measures for the recovery of the stocks at the next annual meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in November 2010.

The Commission considers that the next ICCAT meeting will be an important test case to see how Regional Fisheries Management Organisations can effectively achieve their objective to put in place robust measures for the conservation of marine species which have been overfished for decades and will support any new science-based measure that delivers a credible and effective protection to this sensitive stock. If the results are not good enough, it can not be excluded that a proposal to list Atlantic bluefin tuna could be submitted again at the next CITES meeting in 2013.

Yours faithfully,


Janez Potočnik


Maria Damanaki