EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL **ENVIRONMENT** Directorate D - Natural Capital **ENV.D.3 - Nature Protection Acting Head of Unit**

> Brussels, ENV.D.3 MOB/CP/pp

Mr. Bo Øksnebjerg Secretary General, CEO WWF Denmark

Email: b.oeksnebjerg@wwf.dk

Subject: Open letter from WWF on the Danish 'wild boar fence'

Dear Mr. Øksnebjerg,

Thank you for your email and enclosed letter of 7th of May 2018 on the aforementioned subject. Commissioner Vella has asked me to reply to it.

The Commission is not aware of any plans to build up a fence along the Danish – German boarders with an aim to prevent the passing of wildlife. Such a project may indeed affect the wildlife of the area, including species and Natura 2000 sites that are protected under the EU nature legislation.

It is therefore important that, before a decision is taken for the promotion of such a project, a thorough evaluation is carried out of its potential impacts on protected species and habitats, in line with relevant provisions of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. In that regard, considering the transboundary nature of potential impacts, a close cooperation between competent authorities of the two countries should be established in accordance with applicable EU legislation.

Yours sincerely,

E-signed

Micheal O'Briain

Cc: Mr. Christoph Heinrich, CCO WWF Germany (info@wwf.de)

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