Short report - Commissioner Sinkevičius meetings with the Danish Ministers for Environment and Fisheries. 10/02/2023 Copenhagen.

Both meetings were organised for Commissioner during his trip back from Greenland, from the EU Arctic Forum and Indigenous Peoples’ dialogue. Very open meetings, good atmosphere.

Meeting with Minister for the Environment of Denmark, Mr Magnus Heunicke.

COM updated in details on the state of play of the files in co-decision and the upcoming COM initiatives and asked or DK support to be able to finalize a number of legislative files during the SE and ES Presidencies.

DK raised the following:

PFAS. Need to solve this issues asap, DK can’t do it alone, we need an EU solution. Urge to adopt the proposal for the REACH revision. COM replied that the REACH revision is planned for mid-2023, explained the situation around it, and asked to be vocal those who support the proposal, as more often we hear opinions of those who oppose.

Polluted waste water shipment from Norway. This is a new issue. According to the legislation, only 3% of oil products need to be recovered from waste water, Norway brings polluted water
to Denmark, which is not in violation of the existing legislation. COM replied that this is a new information and suggested DK experts to liaise with DG ENV. (I don’t know what EU legislation DK were referring to, they did not specify).

Habitats Directive and Impact Assessment Directive. They are obstacles for the development of renewables, need to be revised. DKinsisted a derogation is needed. COM called that the existing legislation provides for flexibilities, COM proposed RepowerEU, often national procedures make the permitting procedures longer, etc. and urged to use existing possibilities.

COP15. Congratulations to COM for the good outcome. Now implementation will be key.

Ukraine. DK committed to help the reconstruction in Ukraine. In Mykolayevo, DK is committed to rebuild water supply system. Asked for better coordination of reconstruction efforts. COM debriefed on the involvement from COM, ENV side including on the Phoenix initiative. COM also informed about the letter that will soon reach DK concerning the Pilot re Natura 2000 network. DK took note.