

**From:** "5.1.2.e" <5.1.2.e@minbuza.nl>  
**Sent:** Tue, 14 Feb 2023 22:45:30 +0200  
**To:** ""5.1.2.e@ec.europa.eu"" <'5.1.2.e@ec.europa.eu'; ""5.1.2.e@ec.europa.eu"" <'5.1.2.e@ec.europa.eu'>>  
**Cc:** ""5.1.2.e"" <5.1.2.e@minbuza.nl>; "5.1.2.e" <5.1.2.e@minbuza.nl>  
**Subject:** Letter Dutch Minister Van der Wal to Commissioner Sinkevicius  
**Attachments:** Cover letter.pdf, Scan\_20230214\_180844\_MFP-1341\_5.1.2.e Courtesy translation.pdf, Kamerbrief 20230210 uitwerking-piekbelastersaanpak-en-voortgang-pas-melders.pdf, Kamerbrief 20230210 voortgang-integrale-aanpak-landelijk-gebied-waaronder-het-nplg.pdf

Dear 5.1.2.e 5.1.2.e

Please find attached a letter signed by Mrs Christianne van der Wal, Dutch Minister for Nature and Nitrogen, dated 14 February 2023, together with a courtesy translation and a cover letter from Ambassador Michael Stibbe, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the EU. With this letter Minister Van der Wal would like to inform the Commissioner about two letters she sent to Parliament last Friday and in which she further elaborates the broad, integrated approach to rural areas aimed at restoring biodiversity, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and restore water quality.

It would be appreciated if you could hand over the letters to the Commissioner.

Kind regards,

5.1.2.e

.....  
Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the European Union  
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*Deputy Permanent Representative of  
the Kingdom of the Netherlands  
to the European Union*



Brussels, 14 February 2023

Dear Commissioner Sinkevičius,

I have the honour to enclose a letter signed by Mrs Christianne van der Wal, Dutch Minister for Nature and Nitrogen, dated 14 February. With this letter Minister Van der Wal would like to inform you about two letters she sent to Parliament last Friday and in which she further elaborates the broad, integrated approach to rural areas aimed at restoring biodiversity, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and restore water quality.

The first letter is about the approach for high deposition enterprises. The second letter looks in more detail at the next steps the Government is taking towards the integrated approach for rural areas, and addresses among others the regional targets for nature and climate, the nitrogen targets for the industry/energy and mobility sectors, and the legislative proposal to advance the statutory nitrogen target from 2035 to 2030.

Yours sincerely,

5.1.2.e

Michael Stibbe  
Ambassador

Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius  
Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries  
European Commission  
1049 Brussels

## COURTESY TRANSLATION

Dear Commissioner Sinkevičius,

Today I sent two letters to the Dutch Parliament. The first letter is about the approach for high deposition enterprises, and the issue of the legalisation of activities for which under the Programmatic Approach to Nitrogen no nature permit was required, but now is. The second letter looks in more detail at the next steps the Government is taking towards the integrated approach [for rural areas], which is mainly developed under the National Program for Rural Areas. This approach is of great importance for meeting the objectives for nature, nitrogen, climate and water. It is my pleasure to share both letters with you.

The Government has developed the approach for high deposition enterprises, both agricultural and industrial, in order to achieve a substantial reduction in nitrogen emissions and depositions in the short term. In the approach, a group of 3,000 companies is given the opportunity, on a voluntary basis, to reduce nitrogen emissions very significantly by becoming more sustainable, switching [to other farming practices], relocating or stopping. The ambition is to reduce nitrogen deposition by an average of 100 mol/ha/year with the approach for high deposition enterprises. The final result of the approach depends on the (local) willingness to participate in the various schemes. Assuming that the approach starts in April, an evaluation will be carried out in November 2023 to assess whether the approach will have a sufficient effect. If needed, the next phase of the approach will start in 2024, first with targeted discussions [with enterprises] and, if necessary, applying a mandatory set of measures. At which of the 3,000 enterprises the ultimate mandatory approach will be targeted, depends on the outcome of the evaluation in the autumn of 2023. It is not the case beforehand that all 3.000 enterprises will have to face mandatory measures.

Those enterprises that are eligible for the approach for high deposition enterprises choose themselves whether they will reduce their emissions through (combinations of) innovation, switching [to more sustainable farming practices], relocating or stopping, and they are provided with the tools to do so. As part of the toolbox a National Closure Scheme for Livestock Farming Locations (Lbv+) will be established, specifically aimed at high deposition enterprises. This scheme was discussed last week at high level with both DG Competition and DG Environment. In order to approach the objectives as close as possible, it is necessary for enterprises to significantly reduce emissions at the locations concerned. As mentioned earlier, the approach also focuses on industrial enterprises. In principle, these enterprises will be approached in order of impact. In the approach, permits will be tightened where possible, but specific attention will also be paid to the relationship between the reduction of nitrogen emissions and CO2 emissions and the commitment to overall sustainability.

In the letter on the progress of the integrated approach, I discuss, among other things, the regional targets for nature and climate, the nitrogen targets for the industry/energy and mobility sectors, and the legislative proposal to advance the statutory nitrogen target from 2035 to 2030. Due to the urgency to restore nature, and for the provinces to being able to address this in their area processes, the goal is to bridge 30 percent of the gap towards achieving a favorable conservation status for all protected habitat types and species. As for climate, I submit a proposal for the provincial distribution of the target for greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture. This can be considered as the starting point for incorporating the climate targets in the provincial area programs, which will be finalized after 1 July. Because the Government believes that all sectors should make a proportionate and balanced contribution to the solution of the nitrogen problem, I am also announcing in this letter concrete reduction targets for the industry/energy and mobility sectors, including an explanation on the bases used by the government [to set these targets]. These targets will become definite after 1 July at the same time as the (regional) NH3 targets from the National Programme for Rural Areas

## COURTESY TRANSLATION

(NPLG). Furthermore, in this letter I also mention, among other things, the fact that the legislative proposal to establish the Transition Fund will be discussed in parliament and the steps I want to take with decentralized governments in the field of external setting off. In this letter I have also announced to open at the beginning of this week a public consultation on a legislative amendment to the Environmental Planning Bill, that among others provides for advancing the result obligation for the environmental value of nitrogen from 2035 to 2030.

The forementioned letters follow the letter I previously sent to the Dutch Parliament on November 25, 2022, which was also shared with your services. In that letter, I sketched the broader outlines of how the Government is implementing the nitrogen [reduction] targets and, in connection with this, the water, climate and nature targets. The steps I announced recently are explicitly a step in a multiannual process, in which I work closely with the local authorities and parties involved to achieve the set objectives for 2030.

Should you would like to discuss further the contents of the letters or the broader approach that I am developing with the Government, I would be happy to explain this personally or at a (high) official level.

Yours sincerely,

Christianne van der Wal-Zeggelink

Minister for Nature and Nitrogen

**From:** "5.1.2.e" <5.1.2.e@minbuza.nl>  
**Sent:** Tue, 28 Mar 2023 09:48:35 +0200  
**To:** "5.1.2.e" <5.1.2.e@minbuza.nl>  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from Commissioner Sinkevicius to Minister NL  
**Attachments:** Transmission Letter .pdf, Reply NL Minister .pdf

5.1.2.e

Hierbij antwoordbrief van Sinkevicius op de brief van 14 februari.  
Zet jij de brief door of kun je aangeven naar wie ik de brief, naast secretariaat M, kan sturen?  
Groet,

5.1.2.e

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**From:** 5.1.2.e <5.1.2.e@ec.europa.eu>  
**Sent:** dinsdag 28 maart 2023 09:11  
**To:** 5.1.2.e <5.1.2.e@minbuza.nl>  
**Cc:** 5.1.2.e <5.1.2.e@minbuza.nl>  
**Subject:** Letter from Commissioner Sinkevicius to Minister Adema

Your Excellency,

Please find attached a letter from our Head of Cabinet 5.1.2.e 5.1.2.e for your attention and letter from Commissioner Sinkevicius for onward transmission.

Kind regards,

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**Cabinet of Virginijus Sinkevičius**  
**Environment, Oceans and Fisheries**



European Commission

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## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius  
**Head of Cabinet**

Brussels, 28/03/2023  
env.d.1(2023)1815995

H.E. Mr Michael Stibbe  
Ambassador  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Permanent Representation of The  
Netherlands to the EU  
4-10, Avenue de Cortenbergh  
1040 Brussels

Dear Ambassador,

On behalf of Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, I would like to ask you to transmit the enclosed letter to Ms Christianne van der Wal – Zeggelink, Minister Minister for Nature and Nitrogen Policy y.

Your sincerely,

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**From:** "5.1.2.e" <5.1.2.e@minbuza.nl>  
**Sent:** Tue, 28 Mar 2023 22:36:16 +0200  
**To:** "5.1.2.e" <5.1.2.e@minInv.nl>  
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"5.1.2.e" <5.1.2.e@minInv.nl>; "5.1.2.e" <5.1.2.e@minInv.nl>; "5.1.2.e"  
<5.1.2.e@minInv.nl>; "5.1.2.e" <5.1.2.e@minInv.nl>; "5.1.2.e"  
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**Subject:** FW: Letter from Commissioner Sinkevicius  
**Attachments:** NL Transmission Letter .pdf, Reply NL Minister .pdf

Beste 5.1.2.e

Hierbij een brief van Commissaris Sinkevicius in antwoord op de brief van MNenS aan de Commissaris van 14 februari, met het verzoek deze aan de minister te overhandigen.

De brief vraagt niet om directe actie, maar geeft wel de aandachtspunten van de Commissie aan, bv. t.a.v. de beëindigingsregeling, vermindering stikstofdeposities (tot 2030) en overschrijding van de KDW in N2000 gebieden. Ook wijst de Commissaris op de rol die het komende voorstel geïntegreerd nutriëntenbeheer kan spelen om de transitie te ondersteunen

Hartelijke groet,

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.....  
Permanent Representation of  
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