



Mr Janez Potočnik
Commissioner for Environment
European Commission
200 rue de la Loi
1049 Bruxelles

20 July 2010

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing with regard to the letter sent by the Industry Group on 12 May 2010 in which over 50 national and European business organisations expressed their concerns over the decision of the International Maritime Organisation on the new sulphur limits for marine fuel. In this context, I take this opportunity to thank you for conducting extensive impact assessment studies before reviewing the EU Sulphur Directive.

I would like to stress that the cost-benefit analysis and impact assessments should be based on an integrated approach taking into account the effects of higher fuel costs, freight costs, as well as other likely developments affecting the competitiveness of industry in all European countries, as identified by the existing studies.

The industry counts on an open and transparent revision procedure for the EU Sulphur Directive that includes impact assessments and public consultation.

We strongly believe that both the shipping industry and the users should take on a responsibility to invest proactively in reducing emissions. At the same time, we invite the Commission to investigate all possible solutions leading to an acceptable balance between commercial realities and environmental policy goals.

We remain at your disposal as you explore different legal and practical solutions. A copy of this letter has also been sent to Commissioner Kallas for your information.

Yours sincerely,

(original signed by)
Philippe de Buck