

Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania
Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas
Gedimino ave. 11
LT-01103 Vilnius
LITHUANIA

Thursday, 23 March 2006

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: Fishing vessels involved in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing operating out of Klaipėda port

Greenpeace would like to draw your attention to a number of fishing vessels that are currently moored in the Lithuanian port of Klaipėda and that have engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU). Five of the sixteen ships Greenpeace has identified as IUU vessels, are black-listed by EC Council Regulation 51/2006, as well as by the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO). These are the trawlers *Eva* (IMO 8522119), *Juanita* (IMO 522042), *Rosita* (IMO 8522169), *Isabella* (IMO 8422838) and *Ozherelwe* (IMO 8422876).

As you know, EC Council Regulation 51/2006 amongst others requires that listed vessels are inspected upon entry into port and prohibits that they are assisted or supplied with provisions, fuel or other services. Greenpeace kindly requests you to take all necessary measures to comply with EU rules and Lithuania's international commitments to combat pirate fishing.

Four of the five trawlers (*Eva*, *Juanita*, *Rosita* and *Isabella*) were previously moored in the German port of Rostock, where they were brought to the attention of the German government. A sixth trawler, their sister vessel *Carmen* (IMO 8522030), is currently in a dry dock in the Polish port of Swinoujście. Late in 2005, while moored in Rostock, all five vessels were denied their Dominican flag, as a result of their involvement in illegal fishing. They were later re-flagged by Georgia, and the chartered changed from PIRO-FISH GMBH Rostock to Trespann Ltd. In early 2006, the vessels' names were changed:

- formally *Oyra* – now *Eva* (IMO 8522119);
- formally *Ostroë* – now *Juanita* (IMO 522042);
- formally *Okhotino* – now *Rosita* (IMO 8522169);
- formally *Olchan* – now *Isabella* (IMO 8422838); and
- formally *Ostrovets* – now *Carmen* (IMO 8522030).

According to available information, the current chartered of these five vessels, TRESPANN Ltd, has a postal address in Panama, but appears to operate out of Malmö, Sweden. Comparing bank and other contact details,

TRESPANN Ltd appears to be linked to the Swedish-based company S.B.T. MARINE AB. Information further indicates that the vessels are operated by Murmansk-based NORTHERN FISHERS and owned by BOCYP, a subsidiary of the Russian company PIONERSKAYA.

The sixth black-listed vessel, *Ozherelye*, seems to have kept her name, but appears to have changed to a Russian flag. All trawlers have been cited for IUU fishing in the areas of the North West Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO) and Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) in the years 2002, 2003 and 2004. Reports were filed by a number of NAFO and NEAFC officials and coastal states.

In January 2006, the Icelandic Ministry for Fisheries urged stronger measures to combat IUU fishing in the North Atlantic, explicitly naming all six trawlers. Iceland also requested greater co-operation in the black-listing of known pirate vessels, better enforcement and commitment by companies engaged in the trade and distribution of seafood products to take actions against illegally caught fish.

In addition to these vessels, information available to Greenpeace indicates that a further six vessels, currently in Klapėida port, have been black-listed by European coastal states: *Langust* (IMO 6900771), *Obsha* (IMO 8325676), *Sindbad* (IMO 7436533), *Telavi* (IMO 7733424), *Tiflis* (IMO 7645108) and *Michurinsk* (IMO 8721612). A further four vessels are strongly suspected to have engaged in IUU fishing: *Fernanda* (IMO 7806025), *Orlik* (IMO 8326187), *Ostankino* (IMO 8522157) and *Petropavlovskaya Krepost* (IMO 8225577). To our knowledge, there is currently no reliable proof that any of the vessels engage in legal and regulated fishing anywhere in the world's oceans. As long as there remains doubt over their lawfulness, in particular in the case of the vessels black-listed by EC Regulation 51/2006 (*Eva, Juanita, Rosita, Isabella and Ozherelye*), we expect that the Lithuanian government and local authorities take all necessary measures to ensure that all vessels are not serviced and kept in port until there is solid proof that they are no longer linked to illegal, unreported or unregulated (IUU) fishing or companies that engaged in such activities. In accordance with EU law, Lithuanian authorities must refuse all services, fuel and other assistance in any form or way.

We kindly request that you inform us of your action. We would further appreciate information on whether the vessels have been inspected, and whether they have offloaded fish; in particular catch volumes, gear, species and transshipment data.

We look forward to your response and immediate action on this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

Shane Rattenbury, Greenpeace International Oceans campaign coordinator

Truls Gulowsen, Greenpeace IUU coordinator