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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL ENVIRONMENT
Directorate F – Green Diplomacy & Multilateralism
Unit.F.3 – Global Environmental Cooperation and Multilateralism
Head of Unit

Brussels,
DG ENV.F3 (CITES) Ares(2025)

Subject: Petition - Protecting marine life: a call to end the Grindadráp – Faroe Islands

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for your petition and for raising your concerns about the practice of Grindadráp in the Faroe Islands. We note that your message is addressed to the Danish authorities, who are best placed to respond directly on this matter.

The European Commission recognises, however, that many citizens in Europe and beyond feel strongly about the protection of marine mammals and the importance of aligning traditional practices with modern environmental and animal welfare standards. The European Union (EU) has consistently championed biodiversity conservation and the protection of cetaceans in international fora, in line with its Green Deal ambitions and commitments under global agreements. We are aware that the Grindadráp attracts significant public attention and affects perceptions of the EU's leadership in sustainability and marine conservation.

At the same time, it is important to recall that the Faroe Islands, while part of the Kingdom of Denmark, are not part of the European Union. The regulation of whaling there therefore remains a matter under Faroese competence. Nevertheless, the Commission continues to follow the issue closely and has raised it repeatedly with Denmark and the Faroe Islands. Additionally, the EU works with partners around the world, including within the International Whaling Commission and other multilateral frameworks, to promote a transition towards practices that safeguard marine biodiversity, respect animal welfare, and provide sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities.

Your engagement underlines the strength of public support for these goals. The Commission will continue to advocate for high standards of marine protection globally and to ensure that the EU remains at the forefront of efforts to protect vulnerable species.

Yours sincerely,

Cristina DE AVILA

Electronically signed on 02/10/2025 18:38 (UTC+02) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121