

LETTER OF INTENT

MOVING AHEAD WITH THE REFRESHED JOINT DECLARATION

WE, the MINISTERS responsible for the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation,

ACKNOWLEDGING that the original *Joint Declaration on the Protection of the Wadden Sea*, 1982, which established the Trilateral Cooperation between Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands has served the Cooperation well and, as a result, the Wadden Sea now enjoys a level of environmental protection and wise management that is unprecedented throughout Europe and the rest of the world for a transboundary wetland of international importance.

ACKNOWLEDGING also that since the original agreement was signed in 1982 many environmental, political, economic and social changes have taken place and the work of the Cooperation has developed and progressed well beyond the scope of the 1982 *Joint Declaration*.

RECOGNIZING the evaluation of the Cooperation undertaken in 2007 by two external consultants, Dr Mike Moser and Dr Andy Brown identifying the need to clarify the strategic direction of the Cooperation, improve the governance and produce a refreshed Joint Declaration designed to meet the present and future needs of the Cooperation.

ACKNOWLEDGING that the draft refreshed Joint Declaration, which has been prepared by our Senior Officials, i. a. highlights the significant challenges ahead such as climate change, reconfirms the global importance of the Wadden Sea and its protection as an ecological entity, recognises the need for sustainable development and the increased attention to the importance of landscape and cultural heritage and identifies the essential need for active support and involvement of public and private sectors.

REALISING that prior to the conclusion of the refreshed Joint Declaration on the Protection of the Wadden Sea it is essential to consult public bodies and other public authorities, including the regional and local level, the Wadden Sea Forum, the Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and the wider public in the countries, to obtain their views to ensure their continued active support and involvement in the comprehensive protection of the Wadden Sea.

DECLARE OUR INTENT

1. To consolidate the existing cooperation between our States, to reconfirm the Guiding Principle, and to continue to manage the Wadden Sea as a single entity for its natural, landscape and cultural heritage values, for the benefit of present and future generations and by applying Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

2. To review and reinforce the governance mechanisms of our cooperation with the aim to make them fit for purpose regarding the many contextual changes both within and outside the Cooperation.
3. To make the final draft of the refreshed Joint Declaration on the Protection of the Wadden Sea subject to a 3 months consultation in the countries to seek the views and comments on the final draft by stakeholders.
4. To authorize the Senior Officials to finalize the draft refreshed Joint Declaration on the Protection of the Wadden Sea for the consultation period referred to in 3, to coordinate the activities in the period and to review the comments and suggestions with the aim to finalize the Declaration for signing.
5. To sign the refreshed Joint Declaration on the Protection of the Wadden Sea at a joint meeting in early 2009 with a view to it becoming effective and the reinforced governance mechanisms becoming operational.

Bonn, 27 May 2008

Sigmar Gabriel
Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety, Germany

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Gerda Verburg
Minister of Agriculture, Nature
and Food Quality, The Netherlands

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Troels Lund Poulsen
Minister for the Environment, Denmark