



THE MINISTER

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Ministry of Transport,
Building, and Housing
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Dear Minister Dobrindt, dear colleague,

Thank you very much for your warm greetings on the occasion of my appointment as Minister for Transport, Building and Housing.

I appreciate that you have been in contact with the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety on the impact for the fixed link across the Fehmarnbelt of the EU decision of 10 November 2016 on setting up criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status of marine waters and specifications and standardised methods for monitoring and assessment.

On the basis of the decision a number of working groups will be set up to prepare specific proposals on threshold values and methods, including threshold values on underwater noise if possible. Our state-owned company Femern A/S is in close contact with the Danish environmental authorities on this.

As I mentioned to you during our brief conversation in Paris on 31 January 2017 I am worried about the Schleswig-Holstein authorities' plan approval process concerning the immersed tunnel under the Fehmarnbelt.

As announced in November 2016 on 15 February 2017 Femern A/S submitted to the approval authority in Schleswig-Holstein the answers to the 12,600 responses received during the second public hearing in 2016. The company took all necessary steps and used all available resources to produce answers of a high quality. The company engaged 150 international and German experts on safety, environment, technical issues, legal issues and EU regulation in preparing the answers. Some of the most skilled German advisors and experts within these subject areas contributed to the answers.

However, it is also important to the process that the company receives the necessary advice from the authorities in Schleswig-Holstein.

On 12 December 2016 Minister Meyer informed me that the plan approval process is currently six months delayed. The Schleswig-Holstein authorities have not yet prepared a new timetable. Minister Meyer expects that the need for a new timetable will be clarified during March 2017 and he has informed me that he expects to visit me in Copenhagen on 27 March 2017.



Germany and Denmark have agreed on the need for having the fixed link across the Fehmarnbelt and we signed a state treaty in 2008, according to which “the Contracting States will cooperate in all areas in order to quickly obtain authority approvals at the national and at the international level”.

Further delays in the plan approval process will in my opinion raise serious doubts as to the ability of the authorities in Schleswig-Holstein to deliver on the objectives of the state treaty. This has the potential to put the entire Fehmarnbelt project at risk due to persistent uncertainty with respect to the German plan approval process.

Based on previous experience, there is a risk that the authorities in Schleswig-Holstein will announce further delays. Should this occur, I would like to meet with you urgently and discuss if there are alternative ways in which the fulfilment of our joint treaty can be brought about.

I attach great importance to a good and close cooperation between Germany and Denmark. Therefore, I look forward to cooperating with you on transport and infrastructure matters.

Yours sincerely,



Ole Birk Olesen