

President Emmanuel Macron
M. Le Président de la République
L'Élysée
55 Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré
75008 Paris

12 February 2018

Re: Reinstating the ban on breeding captive orcas and dolphins in France

Dear President Macron,

We, a group of Dutch animal welfare organisations, write to you regarding the Council of State's recent decision to overturn the ban on breeding captive orcas and dolphins in France. Since the announcement of the ban in 2017, we have celebrated the decision of France and have frequently showcased the proposed ban as a great example of compassion and leadership.

The proposed ban acknowledges that whales and dolphins cannot thrive in [captive](#)¹. Keeping these animals in tanks can never provide an adequate standard of welfare for these complex species. Now is the time to phase out this practice by placing a ban on captive breeding whilst continuing to care for remaining animals until the end of their lives.

We acknowledge that the ban was reversed on grounds of an "irregular consultation procedure," but we are convinced that an equivalent ban should be reinstated, in order to help to bring an end to a practice which is widely rejected by a growing number of people around the world.

A breeding ban in France would offer marine parks years to change their business model away from the keeping and display of marine animals, as well as explore ways to improve the environments they keep their animals in.

We respectfully urge you to take responsible steps to protect these animals and reflect the wishes of concerned French citizens and the international community.

Yours respectfully,



BiteBack, Alex Romijn



World Animal Protection Nederland,

Pascal de Smit



Een Dier Een Vriend, Geoffrey Deckers



Free Spirit, Lizette Maas



Dierbewustleven, Marian Eelink



Sea First Foundation, Dos Winkel



DolphinMotion, Hester Bartels



Vissenbescherming, Saskia Bakker



¹ The case against marine mammals in captivity (2009) 4th edition, HSI and WSPA.