



Communication from StopFinningEU

on the Commission's response to the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)
"Stop Finning - Stop the Trade"

The organisers of the European Citizens' Initiative "Stop Finning - Stop the Trade" received on 5 July the [Commission's response](#) to their request to end the trade in shark fins in Europe through additional trade legislation. The organisers welcome the Commission's recognition of the **importance of sharks** and their protection. It is understood that the **Commission will launch an impact assessment** on the environmental, social and economic consequences of a shark fin ban in the European Union by the end of 2023.

Although **all the facts have already been presented** during the meeting with Commission representatives on 6 February 2023 and during the hearing in the European Parliament on 27 March 2023, the **ECI organisers are willing to contribute** to and support this next step in the political process.

StopFinningEU will ensure that the **voice of 1.1 million EU citizens is heard** and will continue to be at the forefront. StopFinningEU stands with science. Consequently, the **impact assessment must cover all relevant sectors** and therefore go beyond the interests of the fishing industry, for example:

- ✓ When assessing the **environmental impact**, consider the loss of biodiversity and the impact on climate.
- ✓ When assessing **economic impacts**, consider the cost savings from simplifying the enforcement and monitoring procedures.
- ✓ When assessing **social impacts**, consider the impact of overfishing on future food security.

The organisers are confident that the **outcome of the assessment will prove** that there is no alternative to **a legally binding trade ban!** It is now up to the Commission and Parliament to decide whether Europe remains part of the problem or becomes part of the solution.

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More information on www.stop-finning-eu.org