



Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Rt. Hon. Andrea Leadsom

November 29th

Dear Mrs. Leadsom,

During the last few months we have seen accusations in the Danish press stating that the Danish shipping company Maersk has violated the Basel Convention and the Regulation on shipments of waste, by selling a vessel that ended up in Bangladesh for scrapping. Upon further investigation it appears that the case in question also involves British authorities, which is why I address myself to you.

It has been established that Maersk sold the "North Sea Producer" - a so-called FPSO (Floating, Production Storage and Off-loading) - in April 2016 and that the vessel, a couple of months after its sale, ended up on a beach in Bangladesh. It has also been established that the sales agreement was entered while the "North Sea Producer" was docked in a British port

From the information available to us, it is our preliminary conclusion, that Maersk most likely did not violate the Regulation on shipments of waste. The buyer, however, may have acted in violation of the Regulation if the decision to scrap the FPSO was taken while the vessel was still in a British port.

According to a Danish newspaper, the vessel was inspected in Middlesbrough on April 28 2016 by a British Port State Control officer, Mr. Chris Bates. At that time, the name of the vessel had changed to "Producer". Likewise, according to the press, the tugboat 'Terasea Hawk' was used to tug "Producer" out of port on 17 May 2016.

I would greatly appreciate any further information that your administration may be able to provide on this case, in particular in regard to the assessment of possible violations of the Regulation.

Yours sincerely,

Esben Lunde Larsen

POSTED  
- 2 JAN. 2017



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP  
From the Secretary of State

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Esben Lunde Larsen  
Minister for Environment and Food  
Slotsholmsgade 12  
1216 Copenhagen  
Denmark

21 December 2016

Dear *Minister*

Thank you for your letter of 29 November 2016.

We are concerned at the reports about the beaching of the North Sea Producer in Bangladesh.

The competent authority for England, the Environment Agency, is currently carrying out further investigations. At the present time we believe the vessel left the UK as a working vessel, but we want to reassure ourselves that Maersk, as the original owner of the vessel, has acted in accordance with the Basel Convention and EU Waste Shipment Regulations. The Environment Agency is in contact with lawyers from Maersk who are co-operating fully with their enquiries.

I am sorry that we have no further information to share with you at this time, but the Environment Agency need to explore all possible avenues for the UK to decide on what, if any, further actions are required.

Best wishes,

*Andrea Leadsom*

**Andrea Leadsom MP**  
**Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

POSTED





Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment and Rural Life  
Opportunities Ms. Thérèse Coffey  
Nobel House

June 12, 2017

defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Ms. Thérèse Coffey,

I very much appreciated our talk at the Council meeting on February 28 2017.

Denmark has achieved a remarkable reduction in landfilling over the last twenty years through a combination of regulation, taxes and focus on establishing alternative solutions for specific types of waste. I am happy to share our experiences from this work. I have asked the Danish EPA to contact DEFRA in order to arrange a meeting between the two.

As mentioned in my letter to Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Rt. Hon. Andrea Leadsom, of November 29th we have seen accusations in the Danish press stating that the Danish shipping company Maersk has violated the Basel Convention and the Regulation on shipments of waste, by selling a vessel that ended up in Bangladesh for scrapping. The Danish Government is highly concerned about the case on the North Sea Producer and I therefore want to make sure, that you have all the information available so far. I am aware that Shipbreaking Platform has written to Ms. Andrea Leadsom already with their assessment of the case. Maersk has not revealed to me to whom they sold the North Sea Producer. If I in any way can be of any help in your investigation please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely,

Esben Lunde Larsen

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# Final Ministerial Reply



\*FR029\*

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**Case Number**

**Date Scanned**

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for Environment  
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**Dr Thérèse Coffey MP**  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Esben Lunde Larsen  
Minister for Environment and Food  
mfvm@mfvm.dk

Our ref: PO429785/MW

29 June 2017

*Dear Esbe*

Thank you for your letter of 12 June. I also appreciated our discussions at Environment Council in February and in April when you visited London.

In her letter to you last December, the previous Secretary of State, Andrea Leadsom, informed you that our Environment Agency has instigated an investigation into the circumstances of the vessel 'North Sea Producer' when it left the UK. This investigation is still on-going.

Our authorities are in regular contact with the NGO Shipbreaking Platform and with lawyers at Maersk. It would be extremely helpful if your Authorities were able to share with our Environment Agency any additional information that they feel may be relevant in this case. Please contact Howard McCann in the first instance by telephone: 44(0)203 025 8705, or email: [howard.mccann@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:howard.mccann@environment-agency.gov.uk).

We will of course keep you informed as our investigation proceeds.

Yours sincerely,

*Thérèse*

**DR THERESE COFFEY MP**



Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Dr. Thérèse Coffey MP

September 1, 2017

Dear Thérèse

Thank you for your letter of 20 June 2017.

Unfortunately the Danish Ministry of Environment and Food does not have any additional information regarding the vessel "North Sea Producer". Should additional information avail we will be sure to keep you informed.

I hope that your Environment Agency has success in their investigation and we too would appreciate being kept informed as it proceeds.

Yours sincerely,

Esben Lunde Larsen