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

Dear President Macron,

I write to you from the Born Free Foundation, the international animal welfare and conservation organisation regarding the Council of State’s recent decision to overturn the ban on breeding captive orcas and dolphins in France.

Whales and dolphins cannot thrive when kept in a barren environment (<http://www.bornfree.org.uk/fileadmin/user_upload/files/zoo_check/reports/Scientists_statement_on_captive_cetaceans_2016.pdf>). Keeping them in tanks can never provide an adequate standard of welfare for these complex animals. The international community is united in its call 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.

Whilst we acknowledge that the ban was reversed on grounds of an "irregular consultation procedure," 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 huge and 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. This could include improvements to water filtration systems, extending the size or depth of tanks, providing more areas for shade and privacy and providing enrichment and appropriate stimulation to encourage better physical and mental health.

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

Yours respectfully and sincerely,

Miss Samantha Goddard,

Campaigns Officer, Born Free Foundation