



10 January 2024

IOTC CIRCULAR 2024-03

Dear Madam / Sir

A LETTER FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION REGARDING THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON ALLOCATION CRITERIA

Please find attached a communication from the European Union.

Yours sincerely

Paul de Bruyn
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

- letter from the EU

Distribution

IOTC Contracting Parties: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, European Union, France (Territories), India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom, Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Liberia. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations.** **Chairperson IOTC.** **Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries
Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

Brussels, 8 January 2024
MARE.B.2/MV

IOTC Secretariat
IOTC-Secretariat@fao.org

Dear Ms Jung-re Riley Kim, Dear Mr. De Bruyn,

I am writing following the letter of resignation of the Chairperson of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria.

The European Union regrets the decision taken by the Chairperson and would like to take this occasion to express the gratitude of this delegation for the excellent work done by the Chairperson in ensuring concrete progress and, for the first time, a draft common text for the allocation of resources within the IOTC area of competence. This delegation would also like to express its regret that the resignation is, presumably, the result of the unjustified criticisms of few delegations on a financial issue for which the approach had already been discussed and agreed in the context of the 2023 Commission meeting.

Against this background, the EU considers that it is important to preserve the work achieved so far and to use this as a basis for a future agreement on allocation. A preliminary condition to continue the planned work of the TCAC is the identification, as soon as possible and in any case by the next Commission meeting in May 2024, of a new chair with the recognised legal and technical competence and the necessary independence to guide the future discussions on allocation.

For this reason, and in order to prepare in an orderly manner the decision on the matter by the Commission, we would suggest that a meeting of the Heads of Delegations to the IOTC is convened to discuss the way forward. Given the rather tight schedule of the beginning of 2024, we would suggest convening the meeting on the week of the 26th of February.

In the meanwhile, the EU would like to use this occasion to confirm its commitment to the process and the hope that the common path towards the definition of a fair allocation system for the IOTC could be restarted as soon as possible.

I would appreciate if you could share this letter with the Members of the IOTC.

Yours faithfully,

Marco VALLETTA
Head of the EU delegation to the
IOTC