

04 November 2024

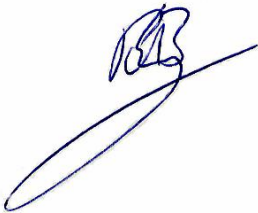
**IOTC CIRCULAR
2024-56**

Dear Madam / Sir

**A COMMUNICATION FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION REGARDING VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR
ATTENDING THE IOTC 2025 ANNUAL MEETING IN LA RÉUNION**

Please find attached a communication from the European Union. All participants should note that the application process may be lengthy and so should plan accordingly.

Yours sincerely



Paul de Bruyn
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

- letter from the EU
- Visa Requirements
- Annex: Form to be completed by participants

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.

This message has been transmitted by email only



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES
International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries
Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

Bangkok, 24 October 2024
MARE.B.2/BM

IOTC Secretariat
IOTC-Secretariat@fao.org

Dear Mr. De Bruyn,

Please find attached an official letter outlining the visa requirements for attending the IOTC 2025 Annual Meeting in La Réunion, scheduled from 7 to 17 April 2025. I would appreciate if you could circulate this letter together with the visa requirement and the annexed table.


We kindly ask all participants to carefully pay attention to the procedures and requirements detailed in the document to ensure that all visas are issued on time for the annual meeting.

Yours faithfully,

Marco VALLETTA
Head of the EU delegation to the
IOTC

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË - Tel. +32 22991111
Office: J-99 03/065 - Tel. direct line +32 229-59854

Marco.VALLETTA@ec.europa.eu

 Electronically signed on 29/10/2024 09:46 (UTC+01) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121

Visa requirements to travel to La Réunion for the upcoming 29th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and associated meetings

The French Authorities are pleased to host the 29th Annual Session of the IOTC and associated meetings scheduled in La Réunion from 7 to 17 April 2025.

Depending on the traveller's nationality, a visa may be required to enter La Réunion. You can check whether you need a visa on the France-visas portal: <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/web/france-visas/assistant-visa>

If you need a visa: below are the procedures and requirements to apply for a visa. A special arrangement "Major events" which aims to speed up and facilitate visa issuance for those wishing to attend the 29th Annual Session of the IOTC will be put in place by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. **In this context, delegations are kindly requested to fill in and return the annexed table to the IOTC Secretariat as soon as possible.**

Type of visa to apply for

An "Overseas" short-stay visa (≤ 90 days) to enter La Réunion must be applied for, for "Tourism/private stay" purposes.

Caution

- **For travellers transiting through a French airport without entering the Schengen Area**, in addition to the Overseas visa, an airport transit visa (VTA) may be required - it is the traveller's responsibility to check (on the [France-visas](https://france-visas.gouv.fr) website) whether his nationality requires this kind of visa. The VTA application needs to be lodged at the consular services of a French embassy or consulate, in addition to the Overseas visa.
- **If the traveller plans to leave the transit area**, i.e. to enter the Schengen Area during his journey, an application for a Schengen visa as well as an application for an Overseas visa need to be lodged.

Visa application procedure

The visa application is a two-step procedure: an online application on the France-visas portal and an appointment made with the official service provider designated by the French embassy for the country concerned.

Step 1: the visa application must be made through the France-visas online portal: <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en/web/france-visas/>

The applicant is advised to carefully read the conditions to be met by his application, take information on the type of visa he must apply for, the supporting documents required to constitute his file, visa fees, etc.

The applicant can fill in the online visa application form on the [France-visas](https://france-visas.gouv.fr) portal, in the "Start your visa application" section at the earliest six months prior to the planned departure date.

The applicant needs to go through the whole procedure to finalize his form in order to **obtain a France-visas number**. Having completed the procedure, the applicant is invited to promptly make an appointment, via the France-visas portal, with the official service provider designated by the French embassy to file his visa application.

Step 2: The application must be submitted on the day of the appointment obtained with the official service provider designated by the French embassy concerned. In most cases, the consular services use external service providers to receive visa applicants and collect their documents. The consular services nonetheless remain fully responsible for processing and making decisions on visa applications.

The principle of territoriality implies that the applicant may only lodge his application at the consular post with legal and permanent competence for his country of residence. For applicants residing in a country where France has no

diplomatic representative, the application shall be made in another country where France has an embassy with competence for his country of residence. In this case, at the time of visa application, the competent embassy is automatically designated by the app.

Visa applications are processed within 3 weeks on average following submission.

Visa issuance arrangement for the Annual Sessions of the IOTC

The “Major events” procedure will be put in place for IOTC annual meetings in La Réunion. The French embassies in the countries in which the meeting participants reside will be informed and any action will be taken to facilitate visa issuance. **In order for the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs to be able to send complete information to the relevant consular posts, the delegations are kindly requested to provide the contact details of the participants wishing to apply for a visa, filling in the annexed table.** All sections have to be duly completed to facilitate guests’ identification. An initial table can be submitted as soon as possible and updated versions may be sent thereafter.

For an optimum processing, the delegations are invited to return the table to the IOTC Secretariat by January 2025 at the latest. Any complementary submission will be taken into account, noting that any visa application submitted 3 weeks prior to the date of the expected entry into the French territory may make it impossible to process the application on time.

This procedure is implemented for the sole purpose of enabling priority processing of applications from those wishing to attend the annual meeting of the IOTC. It is thus crucial that applicants submit a complete application and strictly follow the procedure set out in the above paragraphs. Any incomplete application will be declared inadmissible even for visa applications under the “Major events” procedure.

For any further information, please contact: baei-international@mer.gouv.fr

COUNTRY

AFGHANISTAN
ALBANIA
ALGERIA
ANDORRA
ANGOLA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
ARGENTINA
ARMENIA
AUSTRALIA
AUSTRIA
AZERBAIJAN
BAHAMAS
BAHRAIN
BANGLADESH
BARBADOS
BELARUS
BELGIUM
BELIZE
BENIN
BERMUDA
BHUTAN
BOLIVIA
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
BOTSWANA
BRAZIL
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BULGARIA
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BURUNDI
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CAMBODIA
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CHILE
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CONGO (REPUBLIC OF THE)
COSTA RICA
CÔTE D'IVOIRE
CROATIA
CUBA

CZECH REPUBLIC
DENMARK
DJIBOUTI
DOMINICA
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
ECUADOR
EGYPT
EL SALVADOR
EQUATORIAL GUINEA
ERITREA
ESTONIA
ETHIOPIA
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FINLAND
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KOREA (REPUBLIC OF)
KOREA (SOUTH KOREA)
KOSOVO
KURDISTAN
KUWAIT

KYRGYZSTAN
LAOS
LATVIA
LEBANON
LESOTHO
LIBERIA
LIBYA
LITHUANIA
MACAU
MACEDONIA
MADAGASCAR
MALAWI
MALAYSIA
MALDIVES
MALI
MALTA
MARSHALL ISLANDS
MAURITANIA
MAURITIUS
MEXICO
MICRONESIA
MOLDOVA
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NEPAL
NETHERLANDS
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NICARAGUA
NIGER
NIGERIA
NORTHERN CYPRUS (TURKISH REPUBLIC OF)
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QATAR
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RWANDA
SAINT HELENA
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS
SAINT LUCIA
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
SAMOA
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE
SAUDI ARABIA
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SERBIA
SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
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SOLOMON ISLANDS
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UKRAINE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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UZBEKISTAN

VANUATU

VENEZUELA

VIETNAM

YEMEN

ZAMBIA

ZIMBABWE

NATIONALITY

AFGHAN
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ANDORRAN
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BELIZEAN
BENINESE
BERMUDAN
BHUTANESE
BOLIVIAN
OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
OF BOTSWANA
BRAZILIAN
BRITISH
OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
BULGARIAN
OF BURKINA FASO
BURUNDIAN
CABO VERDEAN
CAMBODIAN
CAMEROONIAN
CANADIAN
CAYMANIAN
CENTRAL AFRICAN
CHADIAN
CHILEAN
CHINESE
COLOMBIAN
COMORIAN
CONGOLESE (B)
CONGOLESE (K)
COSTA RICAN
CROATIAN
CUBAN
CZECH
DANISH
DJIBOUTIAN
OF DOMINICA

DOMINICAN
ECUADORIAN
EGYPTIAN
OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA
ERITREAN
ESTONIAN
ETHIOPIAN
OF FIJI
FILIPINO
FINNISH
FRENCH
GABONESE
GAMBIAN
GEORGIAN
GERMAN
GHANAIAN
GREEK
GRENADIAN
GUATEMALAN
OF GUINEA-BISSAU
GUINEAN
GUYANESE
HAITIAN
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