



Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments
IWC.CCG.1397

Proposed 2021 Budget and arrangements for adoption via Postal Vote

As set out in Circular IWC.CCG.1395, the Commission has decided, via silence procedure, to postpone IWC68 until 2021. This brings with it also a need to adopt a one-year bridge budget for 2021 via postal vote. Given the current situation, where so many Contracting Governments are in arrears with their financial contributions for 2020, resulting in no quorum after 30 June, the budget needs to be adopted before this date. In the very limited time left for preparation of the budget, and taking into account many uncertainties, there was no time to do the full budget planning process. Pragmatically, a roll-over of the 2021 budget with no increase to the financial contributions (compared to those of 2020) of Contracting Governments was seen as the best option by the Bureau.

We hope also to be able to avoid another deficit budget by bringing forward some of the unspent funds allocated to 2020 meetings. Without these additional and unexpected funds, the Commission would be facing a deficit of approximately £140k at the beginning of 2021. As we move forward, we must continue the valuable work already undertaken to introduce a robust, long-term financial strategy, not least by setting balanced budgets in the future.

I would like to repeat to all Contracting Governments to pay their financial contributions as soon as they are due. As well as losing your vote at a time when further postal votes could become necessary, without this income, the Commission may be forced to seek a bank loan to maintain day-to-day operations.

The vote to adopt the proposed roll-over budget for 2021 will be held electronically over a two-week period from 10-24 June. A ballot paper will be sent via Circular at 00.01 (BST) on 10 June. Direct any questions to secretariat@iwc.int and please allow as much time as possible to digest this information so that you are ready to cast your vote when the ballot opens on 10 June. Thank you for your attention and as ever, do your very best to stay safe and healthy.

Andrej Bibic
Chair, IWC

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC

2021 Proposed Bridge Budget

<i>Line Ref.</i>		2021 Bridge Budget
	<i>INCOME</i>	
	<i>All Income</i>	
1	Financial Contributions	(1,656,600)
2	Interest on Financial Contributions	(4,900)
3	Interest Receivable on Cash Balances	(3,000)
4	<i>TOTAL INCOME</i>	(1,664,500)
	<i>EXPENDITURE</i>	
5	Staffing Costs	961,700
6	Staff Benefits	51,800
7	Travel	41,500
8	Professional/Consultancy Costs	16,800
9	Secretariat Running Costs	61,800
10	Information Technology	73,300
11	Meetings	129,200
12	Bank Charges, Depreciation & Provisions	95,700
13	Scientific Committee - Research Budget	226,400
14	<i>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</i>	1,658,200
15	<i>TOTAL (SURPLUS) / DEFICIT</i>	(6,300)

Note – The total contributions included in Line 1 are equal to the total amount of contributions charged in 2020. **For the avoidance of doubt, contributions in this budget have NOT increased from 2020 levels.**

Should you have any questions regarding the information in this document, please contact secretariat@iwc.int.