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CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS, CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS  
AND MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
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**Alexandre de Lichtervelde**

It is with considerable sadness that I have to report the passing away of the Commissioner for Belgium, Alexandre de Lichtervelde, on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

Alexandre had held the post of Commissioner since Belgium's adherence in 2004. He was a very active and devoted member of the IWC community and was known for his great interest in cetacean conservation and the work of the Conservation Committee. He was particularly dedicated to working on reducing the number of collisions between whales and ships and had driven forwards the Commission's work in this area over many years as Chair of the Ship Strikes Working Group. He was equally interested in other conservation areas, including developing measures to assist endangered populations. Most recently he was working with the Commission's Intersessional Correspondence Group to examine the possibilities for obtaining external funding for the Commission's conservation programmes.

In addition, Alexandre served as a member of the Commission's Advisory Committee between 2010 and 2011 and represented the Government of Belgium at the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

Alexandre was a friendly and dedicated colleague, always willing to talk and assist with the Commission's work; the Commission will miss his enthusiasm and energy.

I will send letters of condolence to his family and his department on behalf of the Secretariat and the Commission and, of course, I will be happy to forward any individual messages of condolence.

Dr. Simon Brockington  
Secretary to the Commission