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## CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS, CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE IWC.ALL.200

## Dates and Venue for the Commission's 65th Meeting

I am very pleased to report that the Government of Slovenia has offered to host the next biennial meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC65). Slovenia's offer is made jointly by the Chair of the Board of the Hotel Bernardin, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Economic Development and Technology, and the Minister of Agriculture and the Environment.

The meeting will be held at the Convention Centre of the Grand Hotel Bernardin in the City of Portorož. Sub-committee meetings will take place from 11-13 September and IWC65 will run from Monday 15 September to Thursday 18 September 2014.

Portorož is a picturesque town on the Adriatic coast. It is served by Ljubljana, Trieste and Venice airports and transfer time from Ljubljana is around one hour. Slovenia's National Marine Research Centre has its base in Portorož.

This kind offer to host IWC65 is in addition to Slovenia's offer to host the meeting of the Scientific Committee as previously announced through Circular Communication IWC.ALL.199. Thus the sequence of meetings in 2014 will be as follows:

Scientific Committee Sava Resort and Hotel, Bled 12-24 May 2014

Commission Sub-groups Grand Hotel Bernardin, Portorož 11-13 September 2014
Private Commissioner's Meeting 14 September 2014
IWC 65 (four days) 15-18 September 2014

Further information on agenda, invitations, visas and the registration process will follow in 2014.

Any Contracting Governments wishing to reserve delegation offices should contact Urban Benčič at the Grand Hotel Bernardin (<u>Urban.Bencic@bernardingroup.si</u>) to make the arrangements.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Slovenia for their kind offer to support both of these important meetings.

Simon Brockington Executive Secretary

c.c. Intergovernmental Organisation observers to the IWC