

MH/DR/F2446

13 March 2002

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.230

Unpaid Contributions : Suspension of Right to Vote

The Government of Morocco adhered to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946 in February 2001. In accordance with Financial Regulation E.3. Morocco was informed that its first annual payment was due no later than 31 August 2001.

Despite reminders no payment was received by that date. A strict application of Financial Regulation E.3. would subsequently have required the withholding of documentation and the suspension of Morocco's right to vote with effect from 1 December 2001.

I regret that I missed the diary marker for this action until 23 November 2001 and therefore omitted to provide further warning to the Government of Morocco of the consequences of its continued failure to pay.

Accordingly, I informed Morocco of the circumstances and that the penalties would be applied if the amount owing was not paid by the common due date of 28 February 2002. Furthermore, if, during the period between 31 November and 28 February, any unexpected matter arose upon which the Commission had to decide by means of a postal vote, there would be no option but to apply immediately all of the penalties prescribed by the Financial Regulations on the basis that, under a strict application of the Financial Regulations, they would already be in effect.

Despite three further reminders no payment has been received from the Government of Morocco. Therefore, it has been informed that its right to vote and to receive documentation have been suspended with effect from 1 March 2002.

The Commissioner for Morocco has indicated that its administration is endeavouring to make the payment as soon as possible. Therefore it is to be hoped that this situation will be resolved quickly.

MARTIN HARVEY
Executive Officer

c.c. Non-member Government Observers (for information)