

NJG/JAC/30345

23 February 2006

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.532

Resignation of Horst Kleinschmidt as Commissioner for South Africa

Henrik Fischer, Chair of the Commission, has requested that I circulate the attached letter he has received today from Horst Kleinschmidt.

Information on the new Commissioner for South Africa will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

Horst Kleinschmidt was also Vice-Chair of the Commission and his resignation as Commissioner means that a new Vice-Chair will need to be appointed. Henrik Fischer will complete his three-year period as Commission Chair at the end of IWC/58. An item addressing election of officers will be included on the Commission's agenda for IWC/58.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

Dear Henrik,

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of my resignation as Commissioner from the IWC and thus also as elected Vice Chair of the Commission. I am sending this letter to you now, prior to the intercessional meeting that is taking place in Cambridge next week.

My resignation is caused by my no longer working in the civil service.

I extend my best wishes to you, to the other Commissioners and to the hard-working secretariat. There are issues that have divided us on the Commission floor, but I am a fervent believer that international instruments for the management of global matters, whatever their problems, are infinitely preferable to unilateral actions by individual countries.

In my private capacity I remain involved in marine matters, including the conservation of whales. For contact purposes please write to me at hkleinschmidt@feike.co.za.

Kind regards and my best wishes also to you personally,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Horst Kleinschmidt
23 February 2006