

SB/JAC/31289

8 April 2011

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.929

Letter from the Acting-Chair of the Commission

I have been asked to circulate the attached letter from the Vice-Chair and Acting-Chair of the IWC, Ambassador Anthony Liverpool (Antigua and Barbuda).

As part of his letter Ambassador Liverpool indicates that he has asked the Secretary to consult with the Advisory Committee to establish a procedure for opening the Commission's 63rd Annual Meeting and electing a new Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission. The procedure, as recommended by the Advisory Committee, is also included within this communication.

Dr. Simon Brockington
Secretary to the Commission

8 April 2011

Dear Commissioners

Since we last met in Agadir I have taken on additional responsibilities as Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in St John's. This new role is drawing heavily on my time and because of this the Government of Antigua and Barbuda will, in the near future, establish a new Commissioner to the IWC.

Because of this I want to let you know that I will step down from my position as Vice-Chair and Acting-Chair of the IWC effective from 11am on Monday 11 July 2011. This date is the first day of the Commission's 63rd Annual Meeting. I have timed my departure so as to ensure there is no break between the end of my term as Acting-Chair and the first opportunity for the Commission to elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair.

Furthermore, recent developments in my new role as Director General of Foreign Affairs mean that I will be unable to attend the IWC meeting in Jersey. Accordingly I have asked the Secretary to consult with the Advisory Committee on establishing a procedure for opening the Commission's 63rd Annual Meeting and electing a new Chair and Vice-Chair.

I wish to thank you all for your help and support during my time as Vice-Chair, and also for the warm words of encouragement I received during IWC/62. I trust that you will afford the new Chair and Vice-Chair the same assistance, encouragement, warmth and guidance that I received from you. I also hope that efforts will continue to find ways to improve the governance of the organisation and improve the conservation of whales and management of whaling.

Sincerely,

Anthony Liverpool

Procedure for Opening the Commission's 63rd Annual Meeting in 2011

In his letter of 8 April 2011 the Acting-Chair of the Commission, Ambassador Anthony Liverpool (Antigua and Barbuda), indicated that he had asked the Secretary to confer with the Advisory Committee so as to establish a procedure for opening the Commission's 63rd Annual Meeting.

The procedure agreed by the Advisory Committee is given below:

1. NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF IWC

The Secretariat will receive nominations for the roles of Chair or Vice-Chair of the IWC at any time between now and the Private Commissioner's Meeting scheduled for 10 July. Any nominations received will be circulated to all Contracting Governments. Alternatively candidates may be nominated during the Private Commissioner's Meeting itself.

2. PRIVATE COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

Commissioners from all Contracting Governments should, if possible, attend the Private Commissioners' Meeting on Sunday 10 July. In the absence of the Commission's Acting-Chair the Private Commissioners' Meeting will be opened by the Secretary.

The Advisory Committee suggests that the Chair of the Private Commissioners' Meeting on 10 July be:

- (a) either the most experienced Commissioner attending who is willing to do so; or
- (b) a past Chair of the Commission; or
- (c) an existing Committee Chair.

The first task of the Private Commissioners' Meeting shall be (a) to see if consensus candidates for the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair can be determined; and (b) to agree how to proceed on the first day of the 63rd Annual Meeting. Following that, the Commissioners should follow the normal agenda for such meetings e.g. determining order of business, discussion on Observer speaking rights etc.

3. 63rd ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting will be opened by the Secretary who announces that the Commissioners have **instructed** him to proceed with one of the following three options:

- a. **IF COMMISSIONERS HAVE IDENTIFIED CONSENSUS CANDIDATES:** The Secretary will proceed with the election for the Chair and Vice-Chair – a senior member of the Commission will immediately nominate the consensus candidates, the Secretary will ask if there are any other nominations and when not, announce that they have been elected by consensus (the Secretary normally calls for votes and announces results); **OR**
- b. **IF COMMISSIONERS HAVE IDENTIFIED MORE THAN ONE CANDIDATE:** The Secretary will proceed with the election for the Chair and Vice-Chair by [secret] vote for the identified candidates. The Chair's vote will occur first (i.e. the votes shall not be simultaneous) and the Secretary shall announce the results of the ballot and invite the newly elected Chair to the top table. The vote for Vice-Chair will then occur following the same procedure; **OR**

- c. Alternatively Commissioners may wish to use more time for discussion so as to identify consensus candidates for Chair and Vice-Chair. In this case Commissioners may wish to propose, by consensus, a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Meeting only. These officers will act until the end of the 63rd Annual Meeting only, and elections for Chair and Vice-Chair *of the Commission* would be held at the end of the meeting in the normal way. This scenario would be similar to events at the Commission's meeting in Sorrento in 2004. In this case the meeting would still be opened by the Secretary as outlined above who will call for nominations. A Chair and Vice-Chair *of the meeting* would then be proposed by a senior member of the Commission. The Secretary would then call for other nominations, and assuming none are proposed, would announce that the newly proposed officers will chair the meeting.