



JM/JAC/32347
20 September 2017

Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments
IWC.CCG.1274

**Recruitment of a new Executive Secretary
and arrangements for postal vote**

Circular Communication IWC.ALL.291 outlined the recruitment process for a new Executive Secretary. On behalf of the Bureau, I am pleased to report that this process has reached a successful conclusion. From a very high calibre field of applicants, the Bureau reached a consensus and has offered the post to Dr Rebecca Lent. Attached is a biography that gives a brief outline of the extensive relevant experience Dr Lent will bring to the Secretariat and the IWC as a whole.

This offer is subject to the endorsement of the Commission which will be sought via a postal vote. As has been the case on previous occasions, a voting period of four weeks will be established. The vote will be administered by the Secretariat and conducted as soon as practicable.

Rule of Procedure E.4. sets out the requirements for a postal vote. In order to endorse the appointment of Dr Lent as Executive Secretary, a simple majority of members of the Commission must cast a vote, and a simple majority of these must be in support of the proposed appointment. 44 votes are therefore required. The voting rights of 31 governments are currently suspended due to financial contribution arrears, and members of the Bureau encourage Contracting Governments to make arrangements for payment so that voting rights can be reinstated in time for participation in this important vote.

Details of the voting process will follow as soon as possible.

Joji Morishita
Chair, International Whaling Commission

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC

Chair: Dr Joji Morishita (Japan)
Vice-Chair: Mr Andrej Bibic (Slovenia)
Interim Executive Secretary: Ms Kate Wilson