

**STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES WHO ARE
PARTIES TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE REGULATION OF
WHALING**

**on the withdrawal of Japan from the
International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling**

The European Union and its Member States who are Parties to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW) acknowledge and regret Japan's decision to withdraw from this Convention and the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

The ICRW is one of the longest-standing multilateral agreements ensuring the conservation and management of whale populations, endangered by decades of anthropogenic impacts, including over catch and industrial exploitation, and more recently, facing a growing number of threats, such as bycatch, entanglements and collisions, increasing levels of pollution and underwater noise, climate change, etc.

The European Union and its Member States Parties to the ICRW underline that an effective conservation and management regime relies on joint efforts and initiatives among all countries concerned. We, therefore, welcome the great amount of work undertaken in the framework of the IWC over the last years which has led to increased transparency in working practices and to a better understanding amongst contracting Parties, thus, strengthening the functionality of the organization.

The European Union and its Member States Parties to the ICRW remain strongly committed to maintaining the IWC global moratorium on commercial whaling. We call on Japan not to challenge the progress made and to remain involved in multilateral cooperation on this issue. The European Union will continue to engage with Japan to stress the importance of multilateral ocean governance and adherence to a rules based regime, best delivered through membership of IWC as the international body responsible for the conservations and management of whales.