



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA  
MINISTARSTVO KULTURE

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**The International Whaling Commission  
The Red House  
135 Station Road  
Impington, Cambridge  
Cambridgeshire CB4 9NP  
UNITED KINGDOM**

**Subject: Intersessional Meeting on the Future of IWC**

Dear Sirs,

The Republic of Croatia would like to welcome the IWC in its effort to stabilize the situation by organizing the Intersessional Meeting on the future of IWC.

Unfortunately, due to new position of the Commissioner of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Zoran Šikić, who is recently appointed as the State Secretary, absence of his alternate Ms Ida Partl and some other unplanned circumstances, we were not in a position to nominate our representative to the Intersessional Meeting that will take place in London, 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

For that reason, with this letter, we would like to express our view and opinion about the recent situation within the IWC and its future.

First of all we think that recent polarization of interests within the Commission, where half of the Governments are "pro conservation" and half are "pro -whaling", has reached the turning point. The problem why the situation is like that, according to our opinion, does not lay in the negotiating process it self, but is rather the matter of substance.

In last 60 years since the International Convention on Regulation of Whaling came into force, the situation regarding whaling has changed in many aspects. International community has undertaken many activities and developed so many international conventions and agreements in order to protect endangered wild species and prevent their commercial exploitation, including cetaceans. The IWC itself proclaimed the moratorium on whaling in 1986 in order to reduce pressure on depleted whale populations.

Having that in mind, the Republic of Croatia as the country that has proclaimed strict protection of all whales and small cetaceans, that permanently inhabit or just occasionally visit the Adriatic Sea, is in favor of all options that will lead to:

- establishment of a permanent moratorium on commercial whaling,
- reduction of scientific whaling,

- changing the role of the IWC towards modern and wise pro-conservation management of whale populations, with an emphasis on whale watching. .

In the sense of the above mentioned, we believe that IWC can and will ensure its important role as one of the important and relevant international bodies, by managing and at the same time, protecting world'whales.

Sincerely Yours,



**CC:**

1. **Ministry of Culture**  
**Mr Zoran Šikić, IWC Commissioner of the Republic of Croatia**
2. **State Institute for Nature Protection**  
**Ms Ana Štrbenac, member of the IWC Scientific Committee**