



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère du Développement durable
et des Infrastructures

Département de l'environnement

Luxembourg, 28th April 2015

Mr Joji Morishita
IWC Commissioner for Japan

Dear Mr Morishita,

I am responding to your letter of 21 January 2015 on behalf of the EU IWC Commissioners for Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Republic of Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom, as well as the European Union as an accredited observer to the IWC.

The EU and its Member States Parties to the ICRW acknowledge the efforts by the Government of Japan to further engage with Parties to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) on its proposal to amend the Schedule to allow for small-type coastal whaling vessels to catch minke whales from the Okhotsk Sea-West Pacific Stock (IWC/65/09).

As we have stated on previous occasions, the EU and its Member States are strongly committed to the protection of whales. Our objective remains to ensure an effective international regulatory framework for the conservation and management of whales guaranteeing a significant improvement in the conservation status of whales in the long term and bringing all whaling operations under IWC control.

We note that the Government of Japan considers that their proposal does not introduce a new category of whaling but is intended to establish a catch limit for commercial whaling.

We reiterate our strong support for the maintenance of the global moratorium on commercial whaling. We also reiterate our serious concerns, expressed during IWC 65, about the impact of small-scale coastal whaling on whale populations, taking into account the commercial aspects.

In addition to the above, again as already stated at IWC65, some of the scientific and procedural aspects of this proposal also give us cause for concern.

In light of the above, we consider that no new substantive elements have emerged since our discussions in Portorož that would warrant a change in our position.

Please accept my highest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'C' followed by a horizontal line and a diagonal stroke.

Claude Origer
IWC Commissioner for Luxembourg