

PROPOSAL FOR A CONSERVATION COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR

Submitted by Belgium

The Government of Belgium suggests that the Conservation Committee, which is holding its 8th meeting in Jersey, considers establishing a role of Vice-Chair of the Conservation Committee. The establishment of this officer would bring the Conservation Committee into line with some of the IWC's other Committees and Sub-Committees (i.e the Scientific Committee, the Budgetary Sub-committee and the Commission itself) and with standard practice in other international organizations. In common with these other Committees, the function of the Vice-Chair would be to provide support for the Committee Chair, and also to stand in for that officer when s/he is not available.

Specifically, the Conservation Committee Vice-Chair will also provide input to the development of the Committee and the planning of its work. Such planning has become necessary given the increasing number of issues being dealt with by the Committee.

Additionally, the Vice-Chair would also be able to assist in supporting intersessional work, and through these responsibilities the establishment of a Vice-Chair would contribute to the continuity of the Committee's work.