

STATEMENT FROM EUROPEAN UNION ON RENEWAL OF COOPERATING STATUS

The European Union takes note of document on *Information for review of Cooperating status* [COC_313] and would like to express its concern regarding the lack of cooperation from the countries which have either not submitted an Annual Report (Bolivia and Costa Rica) or who submitted an incomplete one (Guyana). In particular, we note that Bolivia also sent a request for renewal even though it did not submit its Annual Report or other obligatory information.

The EU also noted that when reports have been submitted, in some instances zero catches have been reported. In this regard the EU would like to request further clarifications on the “zero catches” reported.

Regarding Colombia, the EU would like to recall the concerns expressed by several CPCs in 2019 regarding the risk of a transfer of fishing capacity from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Therefore, we would like to receive clear commitments from Colombia that such transfer will not occur, before to consider the renewal of membership to ICCAT.

The EU strongly believes that unless there is a clear commitment in respecting the duties impending on a cooperating non-contracting party, membership should not be automatically renewed.