

STATEMENT IN RELATION TO PWG
(Submitted by the European Union)

1. IUU LISTING PROCESS IN ICCAT (DOCUMENTs PWG-405 and PWG-405A)

The European Union (EU) would like to draw the attention of the ICCAT members and of the Secretariat to the ICCAT IUU vessels list. It is of paramount importance that the list contains consolidated and up to date information, so that vessels that are on the list can be more easily detected when attempting to register under the flag of a CPC or use one of its ports.

In that regard, the EU is of the view that the existence of two entries for the same vessel (FV Labiko/Claude Moinier, IMO 7325746) in the draft IUU list that was circulated on 29 September (Doc. PWG-405) calls for more substantial verifications of the consistency of details entered for each vessel in the list, and in particular those that have been subject to cross-listing.

The EU also considers that it would be important to clarify the status of vessel SAGE (IMO 7825215, current flag The Gambia) as there are substantial indications that this vessel would be the former vessel CHIAO HAO No. 66, currently listed in ICCAT. The EU has taken note of the statement made by the United States (ICCAT Circular #7275/20) and supports it. Necessary amendments (current flag State and name) should be made to the draft IUU vessel list, unless the flag State or the vessel's owner is able to provide information that confirms that this is a different vessel.

The EU would also appreciate that further clarifications be given by Senegal and The Gambia on this vessel. In the [Doc. No. COC 312/2020](#), Senegal confirms it has authorised the vessel SAGE to enter the port of Dakar on several occasions from 2017 to 2020, and to offload tuna and tuna-like species in the port of Dakar in April 2020. It appears, from the information available, that at least during that last call the vessel was not on the list of ICCAT authorised vessels. Therefore the EU believes that it would be useful to understand, for each of the calls made from 2017 to 2020, on which grounds the vessel was authorised to use the port of Dakar, which authorisations it held from its flag State and which were the species landed.

The EU also shares the concerns expressed by the US that a Contracting Party could have registered under its flag an IUU listed vessel. Clarifications that The Gambia could provide in that regard, especially regarding the verifications carried out prior to the registration of the vessel, would be highly appreciated.

2. DRAFT PROPOSAL, SUBMITTED BY THE CHAIR OF PWG, TO AMEND THE RECOMMENDATION [18-12] BY ICCAT ON THE APPLICATION OF THE eBCD SYSTEM (Document PWG-408)

The European Union has submitted its report of the implementation of para 5b and 5d of the Recommendation [18-12]. The European Union considers that the decision-making process in ICCAT in 2020 due to the COVID-19 situation, and in particular the limited scope for exchanges between CPCs in the absence of an annual meeting, prevents the technical exercise required for a meaningful review of the scope and relevance of para 5b and 5d. Consequently, the European Union supports the Chair's proposal to rollover these provisions for one year that would prevent these provisions expiring in 2020 and leaving a legal vacuum for a year, and would in turn offer the opportunity to instead undertake the planned review in a proper manner in 2021.