

Original: English

**LETTER FROM PWG CHAIR ON WAY FORWARD
(ROUND 2 OF CORRESPONDENCE PERIOD)**

5 November 2020

Dear PWG members,

Thank you for the contributions received and ensuring the work of the Group proceeds smoothly. Upon the conclusion of Round 1, I would like to summarise where we are and ongoing issues.

Concerning the consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of MCS measures under point 1 of PWG-400, no specific issues were raised by parties although one suggestion was made by the US (PWG-413) related to PWG-404. Subsequently, as proposed in PWG-400 we can defer these issues alongside other outstanding points that were due to be discussed throughout 2020, to an IMM meeting in 2021.

Regarding point 2 and the Chair's proposal to amend Recommendation [18-12] (PWG-408). Specific support has been expressed by EU, Japan, and Norway. The US has requested some clarifications from the EU in their statement (PWG-413) and I hope consultations on this can continue into Round 2. No other party has raised any other points or objections.

Concerning point 3 and the Review and Establishment of the IUU vessel list, in addition to the information reflected in and listed on the last page of the draft IUU list (PWG-405A), relevant details were contained in the statement from the EU (PWG-411A). Senegal has also provided a statement (PWG-412) through which they request the removal of the *Mario 11* from the draft list. In accordance with PWG-400 and the relevant provisions of Recommendation [18-08], in the absence of any opposition to this removal received by **15 November 2020** the *Mario 11* will be removed from the draft list.

In accordance with Circular 7324/2020, CPCs who may have comments can submit those as Statements to the PWG, as the Commission Chair agreed to allow one statement per CPC and subsidiary body in each round of the correspondence period. These will be translated and posted on the 2020 Commission documents webpage. Comments other than in the form of Statements may also be forwarded to me and the Secretariat, but these will not be translated to avoid delays on the decision-making process. There will be a two-week period for comments. The exact deadline will be specified by the Secretariat as it depends on their translation.

As you know the IMM Group was unable to meet during 2020 due to the ongoing pandemic and the meeting remains pending for 2021. Given the uncertainty of future meetings in general and the technical nature and number of outstanding issues for IMM, I would propose we delay the meeting of the IMM Group beyond May 2021 (after current Spanish Covid-19 restrictions). We could however use the first quarter of 2021 to undertake consultations in order to progress as much as possible by way of correspondence, followed by a shorter virtual meeting(s) (or a physical meeting(s) if possible). I would be grateful for any views from PWG members on this approach by the end of Round 2 (**19 November 2020**).

Thank you for your collaboration,

Best Regards,

Neil Ansell
PWG Chair