

EUROPEAN UNION'S STATEMENT TO PWG (ROUND #3)

In view of the information provided by Senegal in Doc. PWG-418/20, the European Union (EU) agrees with the PWG Chair's proposal not to refer to MARIO 11 as a Stateless vessel in the draft IUU list. Flag State information should be updated only once Senegal confirms that the deregistration procedure initiated in January has been completed.

Prior to that, the vessel should be considered as a vessel that remains under Senegal's responsibility. In that regard, the EU is also deeply concerned that a vessel that had its fishing authorisation withdrawn four months earlier was nonetheless able to leave port and engage in fishing activities on the high seas without the Senegalese authorities be aware of it. The EU calls on Senegal to clarify the measures that have been taken to avoid the repetition of such scenario in the future, and to clarify questions raised in Annex 1.

The EU would also be grateful that Senegal and The Gambia provide, for vessel SAGE, the clarifications which have been already requested in previous rounds. This information should be taken into account by the Compliance Committee when assessing compliance with Port and Flag States obligations (**Annexes 1 and 2**).

As regards the vessel HALELUYA, the EU would like to thank Colombia for the information provided in Circular 8131/20. The EU notes with concern, though, that a fishing licence was issued to a Stateless vessel and calls on Colombia to provide further information on the vessel's activities from 27 June 2019 to 6 October 2019, once ongoing verifications will be completed. The EU also notes that although Colombia had already received information that the vessel might have been operating as a Stateless vessel from 27 June to 6 October 2019, a new fishing licence valid until 16 August 2021 was issued to the vessel on 7 July 2020. The EU also notes that the vessel is still not in the ICCAT Record of fishing vessels. The EU would appreciate that the ICCAT Secretariat clarifies whether appropriate information has been received from Colombia, and that Colombia clarifies whether the vessel is currently actively fishing for tuna and tuna-like species.

The European Union would also be grateful that Colombia shares with ICCAT the information based on which Colombia reported that the vessel was operating "in both Colombian waters and waters of other countries" (COC-307/19). The summary of access agreements published by the ICCAT Secretariat in October (COC-303/20) does not seem to include references to access agreements involving a Tanzania-flagged vessel, and therefore the EU calls on Colombia to help clarifying other authorisations held by the vessel.

Finally, considering that we are still awaiting on several answers to important questions, the EU would like to request that a thorough follow up be given to these outstanding issues and that the CPCs concerned be requested to reply and provide information before the next intersessional meeting of PWG/IMM.

Further clarifications requested from Senegal on vessels MARIO 11 and SAGE

As regards **vessel MARIO 11**, the EU would like to request Senegal to:

- a) Provide to the PWG the deregistration certificate of the vessel, which should otherwise be maintained in the list with Senegal as the current Flag State.
- b) Clarify the legal action it intends to take as regards the Senegalese company that owns the vessel, and is therefore responsible for the fishing activities it carried out without a fishing licence.
- c) Reply to questions raised in paragraph 4 of the previous EU statement (PWG-416/20) as these questions currently remain unanswered.
- d) Provide the same information for the fishing vessel MARIO 7 (date of the withdrawal of the fishing licence; deregistration certificate; activities and location from the moment the fishing authorisation was withdrawn to the completion of the deregistration process), since the EU understands that this vessel was in a similar situation (ICCAT Circular #3977/20).

As regards **vessel SAGE**, the EU reiterates the questions raised in its previous statements (PWG-411A and PWG-416/20). To date no clarifications have been provided by Senegal on calls made by the vessel from 2017 to 2019, the type of authorisations it held from its Flag State, the species it landed and whether Senegal confirmed the vessel was on the ICCAT record of vessels. The EU is concerned that these questions remain without answer and urges Senegal to clarify how it implemented ICCAT Recommendations 18-09 and 12-07 in relation to that vessel. The EU also asks the PWG to refer to the Compliance Committee possible issues detected in relation to the port calls made by this vessel from 2017 to 2020.

Further clarifications requested from The Gambia on vessel SAGE

The EU asks the PWG to refer to the Compliance Committee the issue of the registration by The Gambia of a vessel with tuna longliner characteristics but that was not subsequently added to the ICCAT record of vessels nor effectively monitored to ensure it would not engage in this fishery, so that the case can be reviewed in light of the provisions established in Recommendation 13-13 (and notably its points 5 and 7). Unless The Gambia provides clarifications during this third round of exchanges, the EU also asks the PWG to request the Compliance Committee to take into account the absence of reply from The Gambia to previous statements and questions.