



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS,
FOR THE UNION OF THE COMOROS AND THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES

**Address of Denis Reiss - Delegation of the European Union to the
Republic of Mauritius, for the Union of Comoros and the Republic of
Seychelles**

at the opening ceremony of the Regional Workshop to support the
implementation of IOTC Resolutions

Le Meridien Hotel, Pointe aux Piments

Tuesday, 27 August 2013 at 9 am

Mr. Mauree, Director of Fisheries in Mauritius,

Mr. Rondolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the IOTC,

Mr. Leone Tarabusi, Regional Manager of the ACP Fish II Programme for
the Southern Africa region,

Mr. Gustavo Miranda, Programme Manager of ACP Fish II,

Dear participants,

Thank you for offering the EU Delegation to Mauritius, for the Union of Comoros and the Republic of Seychelles, the opportunity to express its strong interest in this IOTC secretariat initiative, aiming at building the capacity of the participating countries to implement the decisions of the IOTC Commission.

At the plenary session of the IOTC, held in Mauritius last May, the IOTC secretariat presented its continued efforts to strengthen the capacities of IOTC developing countries and monitor their performances in the

implementation of the resolutions of their Regional Fisheries Management Organisation. The concrete results of this initiative, measured through an indicator index, led to the Commission's recommendation to further intensify the strengthening capacity programme; and the EU is pleased to note that this recommendation already materializes with the ACP Fish II EU sponsored programme, addressing today the demand driven requirements of the group of beneficiary countries you are here representing.

The Delegation is also aware that the Indian Ocean Commission Smart Fish Programme, financed by the European Union, is currently supporting this IOTC secretariat initiative and although the ACP Fish II programme will expire this year, it is expected that the current SmartFish programme will be followed by a second phase that may allow the Indian Ocean Commission to continue to provide support to the IOTC secretariat action plan.

Dear participants, the fisheries' context is rapidly changing in the Indian Ocean. In particular, the security conditions at sea seem to have significantly improved, resulting from the international cooperation to efficiently fight piracy in the region, with an important involvement and contribution from the EU. This recent development could however reverse the trend of a decline in the fishing efforts as observed these last years.

In a possible favourable context for the fishing activities to intensify in the region, the IOTC member countries have already been made aware by their Scientific Committee of the importance to closely and timely manage their stocks. The risk of a depletion of the strategic resources managed by the IOTC for the food security of the region and the economic wealth of the tuna production chains, needs to be handled in a responsible manner with

little uncertainty in data collection, allowing better science and reliable scientific advices.

Considering the substantial variations in the degree of compliance by the IOTC members and the specificities and the importance of the developing countries in this region, we are confident that this workshop will deliver significant measurable progresses regarding your respective compliance records.

Your participation, building on your own experience will certainly enable immediate appropriate actions to identify and tackle specific constraints and demonstrate your willingness and your ability to fulfil your compliance obligations related to the existing IOTC resolutions.

Through this South west Indian ocean regional capacity building initiative, the leading role that you intend to play in implementing in particular, catch and effort reporting, Port States measures, and other Monitoring Control and Surveillance resolutions and management measures, will certainly deserve all the attention of the other IOTC members who also share your dynamism and ambitions for the unique and extremely important mandate of this Regional Fisheries Management Body embedded in international laws.

We wish you a very successful workshop.