



**COMMISSION**  
**NINTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Manila, Philippines  
2-6 December 2012

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**European Union – Rules of Procedure Rule 20 regarding submission of Proposals**

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**WCPFC9-2012-DP01**  
**5 November 2012**



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND MARKETS  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, LAW OF THE SEA AND REGIONAL FISHERIES  
ORGANISATIONS

Brussels,  
MARE.B1/PN/ae/ARES(2012)

Prof. Glenn Hurry  
Executive Director  
Western and Central Pacific  
Fisheries Commission  
P.O. Box 2356, Kolonia, Pohnpei  
State  
FSM 96941

Dear Prof. Hurry,

I am writing to you with regard to some provisions for the submission of documents to WCPFC9 outlined in document WCPFC9-2012-01\_rev1 (Meeting notice).

In the paragraph "Submission of proposals", you propose that documents are submitted 30 days in advance of WCPFC9 and that Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure is applied to those documents submitted after the 30-day deadline. The basis for your proposal is paragraph 30 of WCPFC2 Summary Record.

The EU fully shares your concern that submission of proposals 24 hours before the start of the meeting would not give WCPFC CCMs sufficient time to examine all proposals. Furthermore, the EU concurs with you that the agenda needs to be kept focused. A modification of the 24-hour deadline would certainly help avoid the unclear situations we had in the past.

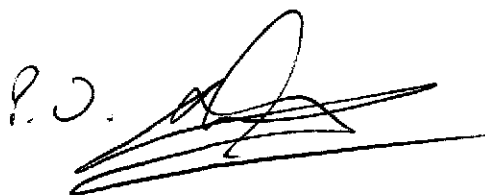
I would like to point out that the language of paragraph 30 of WCPFC2 Summary Record is one of recommendation i.e. "Members *would try* to submit draft proposals 30 days prior to the Annual Session of the Commission" and that, albeit your proposal is reasonable, it is for the Commission to decide which rule of procedure should take precedence over another.

For that reason, the EU asks for a new agenda item "Amendment of Rule 20 of the RoP" in order to trigger a discussion on the deadline for submission of proposals to Annual Sessions.

In the spirit of §30 of WCPFC2 Summary Report, the EU will try to do its best to send proposals sufficient time in advance in order to broaden the deadline officially enshrined in that Rule 20. The EU encourages other WCPFC CCMs to do the same.

But until a decision is taken by the Commission on its amendment, Rule 20 should remain in application as it currently stands.

Please make this letter available to all CCMs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Cesari', written over a horizontal line.

Roberto CESARI

Head of EU Delegation to WCPFC