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EUROPEAN UNION  
THE COUNCIL

Brussels, 11 September 1996

RESTREINT

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ORIGINAL

PECHE 312

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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from : Working Party on External Fisheries Policy

25. SEP. 1996

dated : 6 September 1996

No. prev. doc. : 9278/96 PECHE 291

Subject : Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) : Future seat of the organisation

1. Following an earlier initial discussion on 15 July last<sup>(1)</sup>, the Working Party reverted to the issue of the location of the seat of the IOTC in preparation for the extraordinary session of that body which has been convened for the first half of December 1996.
2. The Commission representative indicated that during that session a decision is expected to be taken regarding the future seat of the IOTC. In these circumstances, he considered it appropriate that the Community adopt a common position on that issue - a view echoed by the French delegation - and he invited delegations to indicate which of the two candidatures they supported, Sri Lanka (Colombo) or Seychelles (Victoria).
3. Delegations took the following positions :
  - the Finnish, French, Italian and, provisionally, the United Kingdom delegations expressed their preference for the candidature of the Seychelles. The Dutch delegation expressed a similar view but was ready to follow the majority;
  - on the other hand, the Belgian, German and Greek delegations were in favour of Sri Lanka;
  - the Danish, Irish, Spanish and Portuguese delegations were ready to rally to the majority view;
  - the Swedish delegation indicated that it had not yet adopted a definitive position.
4. The Commission took note of these views, and it was agreed to revert to the issue at a future meeting of the Working Party.

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(1) See previous document 9278/96 PECHE 291.

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