

Kirchner
16312/96 XX. GP

EUROPEAN UNION
THE COUNCIL

Brussels, 12 November 1996

RESTREINT

10507/96
REV 1

RESTREINT

PECHE 383

UNIONEN
CIRCULANER III

22. Nov. 1996

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from: Working Party on External Fisheries Policy
dated: 21 October 1996

N° prev. doc.: 9592/96 PECHE 312

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

1. The Commission representative said that the inaugural session of the IOTC would be held in Rome on 3 - 6 December 1996⁽¹⁾; during this session, the future seat of this organization would have to be agreed upon. To date, Sri Lanka (Colombo) and the Seychelles (Victoria) have applied to be host countries.
2. The Commission's preference, IOTC being a fisheries body, was the Seychelles, taking into account the close relations existing between the Union and that country which have also taken the form of an important Fisheries Agreement regulating tuna fishing by the Community fleet.

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(1) OJ No. L236 of 5.10.1995, p. 24: Council Decision of 18 September 1995 on the accession of the Community to the Agreement for the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

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Position of delegations

3. Most delegations could support the Commission's position in favour of the Seychelles.
4. Among these delegations:
 - the Dutch delegation indicated its readiness to join any majority position;
 - the Danish and Irish delegations had no strong preference for the Seychelles;
 - the Portuguese and United Kingdom delegations noted that their position was provisional.
5. The Belgian and German delegations declared themselves in favour of Colombo (Sri Lanka), taking account of the appropriate existing infrastructure currently used by the Indo-Pacific Tuna Programme (IPTP). The Belgian delegation, however, was able to join the majority tendency for the Seychelles.
6. The Spanish delegation, which had not expressed any preference, indicated its readiness to join any majority position.

Conclusion

7. Underlining, like the French delegation, the importance of adopting a common position swiftly, the Chairman concluded that the item would be further examined at a future meeting of the Working Party.

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