



Invitation to the 21st Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee

Bonn, 7 July 2014

Dear Sir / Madam,

The UNEP/CMS/ASCOBANS Secretariat is pleased to invite you to the 21st Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (AC21), which will be held upon the kind invitation of the Government of Sweden at the Hotel Riverton in **Gothenburg, Sweden**. The meeting will take place **from 29 September - 1 October 2014**.

Participation

In accordance with Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure for the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee, as adopted at AC19, all Parties to the Agreement are entitled to appoint one member of the Advisory Committee and such advisers as the Party may deem necessary. All non-Party Range States and Regional Economic Integration Organizations bordering on the waters concerned by the Agreement may send observers to the meeting.

As at previous meetings, other organizations and international bodies concerned with relevant issues are invited to participate in the 21st ASCOBANS Advisory Committee Meeting as observers. Any individual or body qualified in cetacean conservation and management must request admittance to the sessions of the Advisory Committee (such a request is not needed for the Secretariats and technical advisory bodies of CMS and its daughter agreements, CITES, Bern Convention, ECS, HELCOM, IATTC, ICES, IUCN, IWC, NAMMCO, NEAFC and OSPAR). **Requests for observer status** from organizations or qualified individuals must reach the Secretariat 60 days before the Meeting, i.e. **by 31 July 2014**. A completed registration form or a written indication by email of your or your organization's intention to participate is sufficient. If your organization has not been represented before, please include some information on the relevance to the Agreement.

Parties will be requested to inform the Secretariat of any objections by 30 August 2014. Unless objections are received from more than one third of the Parties (i.e. four objections), the applicant will be admitted as a non-voting observer. The Secretariat will promptly notify all applicants of the final decision.

Please **register** for the meeting **by 30 August 2014** through the meeting registration link on the AC21 page (www.ascobans.org/en/meeting/AC21). Each participant needs to be registered separately. We would like to urge all to register early, as otherwise it will be difficult for the host and Secretariat to complete the logistical arrangements for the meeting. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Documents

The Provisional Agenda for the Meeting is attached for your information.

In line with the Rules of Procedure, please submit any **documents** intended for discussion at the meeting to the Secretariat **by 25 August 2014**, in order to allow timely circulation for the meeting.

We would also like to request your assistance in updating the list of Dates of Interest to be considered by AC21. Therefore, if you know of a meeting in 2014 or 2015 that should be included in the draft, please notify the Secretariat by 25 August 2014.

Travel and Accommodation

The meeting is foreseen to **start at 9:30 on 29 September and end at 18:30 on 1 October**. When making your travel arrangements, please ensure that you can be there until the list of decisions and action points has been adopted and the meeting closes. A more detailed timetable will be made available in due course.

The North Sea Group will meet on 28 September in the same venue.

Information on travel and accommodation options is attached to this letter. Please note the deadline for hotel reservations of 29 August.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Heidrun Frisch and Ms Bettina Reinartz at +49 228 815 2416 or ascobans@ascobans.org if you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing you in Gothenburg in September!

Yours sincerely,



Bradnee Chambers

Acting Executive Secretary

Enclosure

- Provisional Agenda
- Travel Information