

Original: Spanish

MEETING PARTICIPATION FUND¹

In 2020 the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 14-14 on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties* (Rec. 20-09) which substitutes and repeals Rec. 14-14 in its entirety.

Recommendation 20-09 establishes a Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) to support representatives of those ICCAT Contracting Parties which are developing States for the purpose of attending and/or contributing to the work of the Commission and other subsidiary bodies. This fund was initially provisioned with €60,000.00 from the Working Capital Fund.

The new recommendation differs from the previous one in that some minimum criteria must be met in order to control costs and minimize the administrative burdens. The criteria are as follows: when a developing Contracting Party sends more than six official delegates to a Commission meeting or more than four to a subsidiary body meeting using its own resources, it will not be entitled to receive financial support from the MPF; in addition, the delegates must travel in the least expensive economy class or another that is more economical and the flight itinerary must be defined at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

This fund was financed in 2021 with an allocation of €40,000.00 charged to Chapter 13b) of the ICCAT budget, as approved by the Commission in 2020.

To these funds, the carryover from financial year 2020 must be added, which amounted to €415,811.72. Therefore, the available amount for 2021 was €455,811.72.

It should be noted that the carryover from financial year 2020 included a voluntary contribution from the European Union through the European Union Fund for Capacity Building, in the amount of €140,000.00. This contribution was made under a contract which terminates on 31 December 2021. Since no expenses have been incurred in the period, and in the case that the contract term is not extended, this amount must be refunded and, therefore, deducted from the balance of the MPF.

Finally, it should be noted that no trips were arranged in 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic and, therefore, no expenses have been charged to the Fund.

Special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)

Opening balance for financial year 2021	€415,811.72
REVENUE	€40,000.00
Financed by ICCAT	€40,000.00
Balance at 2 November 2021	€455,811.72

¹ Data at 2 November 2021.