

Ambassador Kazuo KODAMA
The Mission of Japan to the European Union
Rue Van Maerlant 1,
1040
Bruxelles

04/07/2019

Dear Honorable Ambassador,

We write to highlight our deep disappointment and revulsion at the decision of the Government of Japan to return to commercial whaling, following Japan's departure from the International Whaling Commission at the end of June.

Japan and the European Union have built a close relationship in a changing world order, which we celebrate. We firmly believe it is important for both to continue to adhere to a multilateral rules based regime, including on ocean management.

The conservation and management of whale populations and the need to remain involved in multilateral cooperation on this issue is paramount. The growing concern of people around the world, particularly among the younger generation, for our environment and ecology must no longer be ignored.

In this spirit, we would respectfully ask you to pass on the deep concern of our delegation to your Government. We encourage the Government of Japan to return to the IWC and work towards supporting the IWC moratorium on commercial whaling.

As you will be aware, under the recently signed EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, the EU and Japan both committed themselves to conserving and sustainably managing natural resources and addressing biodiversity, including combatting illegal trade in wildlife.

Unless the decision is reversed, we have no doubt that Japan's decision to return to commercial whaling will be considered when the Trade and Sustainable Development Chapter of the EU-Japan EPA is reviewed.

Yours Sincerely,

Caroline Voaden MEP

Martin Horwood MEP

Catherine Bearder MEP

Barbara Gibson MEP

Lucy Nethsingha MEP

Luisa Porritt MEP

Phil Bennion MEP

Jane Brophy MEP

Judith Bunting MEP

Chris Davies MEP

Dinesh Dhamija MEP

Antony Hook MEP

Shaffaq Mohammed MEP

William Newton Dunn MEP

Sheila Ritchie MEP

Irina Von Wiese MEP