

**Question for written answer E-002278/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: EU must protect African elephants

The COP 18 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) will be held in mid-August in Geneva.

The situation of elephants is particularly worrying. More than a quarter of the world's elephant population has been slaughtered in the past decade!

Several states, including nine African countries, supported by EU Member States, wish to list all African elephant populations under Appendix I of the Convention. For the time being, only elephant populations in Central African countries are listed under Appendix I, thus providing them with full protection. The remaining elephant populations (in southern Africa) are currently listed in Appendix II (which affords them strong protection but allows for trade in ivory). This double classification has the effect of encouraging ivory trafficking in Central African countries.

1. What position does the Commission plan to take at the conference?
2. Will it defend a high level of protection for African elephants by supporting proposal number 12 for the full listing of all African elephant populations in Appendix I to prevent any trade in ivory?

Protecting African elephants is a key issue in the conservation of Earth's biodiversity, and the EU must lead by example.