



COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

- THE SECRETARIAT -

Brussels, 25 March 2010

Summary Note

Delegation to the CITES COP15

Doha, Qatar, 22-23 March 2010

I. Background

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. 175 countries are now Parties to the CITES.

Species under CITES are listed in CITES Appendices based on their conservation status and levels of international trade:

- CITES Appendix I contains species threatened with extinction for which international trade is prohibited;
- CITES Appendix II includes species in relation to which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilisation incompatible with their survival;
- CITES Appendix III contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade;

The 15th conference of the Parties to CITES was held in Doha, Qatar, from 13 to 25 March 2010. A small delegation of MEPs from the ENVI Committee went to Doha to attend this conference on 22 and 23 March 2010.

The main topics on the agenda of the 15th conference of the Parties (COP15) were notably Bluefin Tuna, Polar Bears, Elephant and Ivory, Sharks, Corrals and Tigers.

The European Union itself is not yet a Party to CITES. The European Union's position is thus expressed by the Presidency, on behalf of all the EU Member States.

II. Composition of the delegation

The inclusion of 3 MEPs in the European Union delegation to CITES COP15 was authorised by Council and Commission.

The delegation was composed of Mr. Gerben-Jan GERBRANDY (ALDE, NL) and Mr. Bas EICKHOUT (Greens, NL). They were accompanied by Ms. Bérangère BASIN (ENVI Secretariat). Ms Sirpa PIETIKÄINEN (EPP, FI) was unfortunately unable to join the delegation.

III. Preparation

On 10th February 2010 the European Parliament adopted a resolution indicating its position on the different topics to be dealt with at COP15.

On the run-up to COP15, the delegation was briefed by the Commission services and also had a meeting with Commissioner Potočník.

Before heading to Doha, the delegation held a press conference on 16 March, after the Council had agreed on an EU common position on 10 March.

IV. Activities of the delegation

Briefings by the Commission and the Spanish Presidency

The delegation was briefed every morning by the Commission and the Spanish Presidency, notably on the latest developments of the EU position.

(Despite a letter from the Chairman of the ENVI Committee, and a letter from the MEPs of the delegation themselves, the delegation was not allowed to attend the EU daily coordination meetings.)

Meetings with EU delegations

The delegation met the British, Dutch, German and French delegations. Views were exchanged on the main issues at stake at COP15, as well as on the functioning of the EU in such international conferences.

Meeting with third countries delegations

The delegation met with the US delegation, including Tom STRICKLAND, Head of delegation. The meeting was focused on Polar Bears and Shark species. It also appeared that it was sometime difficult for the Americans to fully understand the EU organisation during the conference, and thus to identify whom to talk to.

The delegation met with the Chinese delegation (Dr. Su Chunyu, Executive Director General of the CITES Management Authority). This meeting was a general meeting on CITES.

It did not appear possible to meet the Japanese delegation.

Other Meetings

The delegation met the following organisations: WWF, PEW, IFAW, Pro Wildlife-SSN, HIS.

The delegation also met with Willem Wijnstekers, Secretary General of CITES.

CITES debates

The delegation was able to enter the conference room and to attend the debates on Elephants and Sharks.

V. Outcome of COP15

Elephants and Ivory

On elephants and ivory, the conference ended with a status quo: The proposals from Zambia and Tanzania to downlist their elephants' populations from Annex I to Annex II and to have a one-off sale of ivory were rejected. The proposal from Kenya, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Togo, Congo and Rwanda proposing a 20 year moratorium on ivory sale and downlisting of any elephants' population was also defeated.

Polar Bears

The proposal by the US to include Polar Bears in CITES Appendix I was rejected.

Marine species

The proposal to include Atlantic Bluefin Tuna on Appendix I, thereby prohibiting international trade in that big fish, was rejected.

The proposal to list Red and Pink Corrals on CITES Appendix II was also defeated.

Regarding Sharks species, including hammerhead sharks, whitetip sharks, porbeagle sharks, and spiny dogfish sharks, all the proposals to list them on CITES Appendix II were rejected. (A proposal to protect the porbeagle shark was initially accepted, but it was overturned during the final day of the meeting.)

Other species

COP15 agreed to impose stricter reporting requirements regarding Tigers. COP15 also agreed on a better protection from the international trade for five species of Central American tree frogs, four species of critically endangered spiny-tailed iguanas from Honduras and Guatemala, a critically endangered salamander from Iran known as the Kaiser's newt, a rare beetle from Bolivia as well as two South-American timber species used in the perfume and cosmetics industries.

VI. Concluding comments

The delegation was very disappointed by the lack of progress regarding marine species. The MEPs regret that because of the strong lobby of Japan, none of the lucrative marine species was able to find its way to the CITES Appendices. In that case, even though the US and the EU had similar positions, they did not achieve to include those marine species under CITES.

Regarding the role played by the EU at COP15, the MEPs consider that it is not enough. They found that the EU spent too much energy and time - both before and during COP15 - on trying to agree internally on a common position, and not enough energy and time to try to rally third countries to its positions. They regret that even in a conference like CITES, which is much smaller and simpler than the UNFCCC Copenhagen conference, the EU does not manage to hold a stronger role.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DELEGATION
COP15 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered
Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
Doha, QATAR
22 -23 March 2010

PROGRAMME

Participants:

MEPs:

Gerben-Jan GERBRANDY (ALDE)

Bas EICKHOUT (Greens)

Staff:

Bérangère BASIN - ENVI Secretariat

SUNDAY 21 MARCH 2010		
Afternoon	Individual arrival <i>Transfer from airport to hotel organised by the hotel (The airport representative of the hotel will be waiting near the arrival area holding the signage of the hotel)</i>	MOVENPICK TOWER & SUITES West Bay Area, Doha, Qatar + 974 496 66 00
20.30	Meeting in the hotel lobby	
Evening	Dinner with participants of the delegation	Souk Waqif



MONDAY 22 MARCH 2010



8.10	Meeting in the hotel lobby and departure	MOVENPICK TOWER & SUITES West Bay Area, Doha, Qatar + 974 496 66 00
	Arriving at the COP15 venue + registration	Sheraton Doha Resort & Convention Hotel Al Corniche Street Doha, Qatar
8.30 – 9.00	Briefing by Commission and Presidency	Sheraton, lobby
9.00 – 12.00	Committee I, debate on Elephants	Sheraton, room Committee I
12.30 - 13.00	Meeting with Willem Wijnstekers, Secretary General of CITES	Sheraton, Mr. Wijnstekers' office
13.30 - 14.00	Meeting with WWF	Sheraton, cafeteria
14.00 – 17.00	Committee I, debate on Elephants	Sheraton, room Committee I
17.00 -17.30	Meeting with NGOs : IFAW, Pro Wildlife-SSN, HIS	Sheraton, cafeteria
17.30 – 18.00	Meeting with the British Delegation	Sheraton, cafeteria
18.15 - 19.00	Meeting with Tom STRICKLAND , Head of the US Delegation	Sheraton, lobby
Evening	Dinner hosted by the Spanish Presidency	Residence of the Ambassador of Spain



TUESDAY 23 MARCH 2010



8.10	Meeting in the hotel lobby and departure	MOVENPICK TOWER & SUITES West Bay Area, Doha, Qatar + 974 496 66 00
8.30 – 9.00	Briefing by Commission and Presidency	Sheraton, lobby
9.30 - 10.30	Meeting with the Chinese delegation , Dr. Su Chunyu, Executive Director General of the CITES Management Authority	Sheraton, Room Salwa 2
11.00 - 11.40	Meeting with the Dutch Delegation Anita WOUTERS , Director for Nature, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Safety	Sheraton, in front of the registration desk
12.30 – 14.00	Meeting with the Pew Environment Group , Susan Lieberman , Deputy Director	Sheraton, cafeteria
14.00 – 16.00	Committee I, debate on Sharks	Sheraton, room Committee I
16.00 – 16.30	Meeting with the French Delegation	Sheraton, cafeteria
16.30 – 17.00	Meeting with the German Delegation	Sheraton, cafeteria
Evening	Dinner with the Commission and Departure	Sheraton

CITES: MEPs disappointed about lack of progress on marine species

Members of the EP delegation to the CITES conference, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (ALDE, NL) and Bas Eickhout (Greens/EFA, NL), today voiced dissatisfaction with decisions taken by CITES on marine species, including corals, sharks and bluefin tuna. MEPs also regretted the weak role played by the EU, which was "too busy trying to reach a common position".

Members of the EP delegation were disappointed about the lack of progress made in the protection of marine species: the proposals concerning a trade ban for corals, bluefin tuna and sharks were all rejected, except a proposal for one shark species. MEPs noted with regret that Japan and China, who had a very clear position to keep marine species out of CITES, achieved their goals.

The next opportunity to step up the protection of bluefin tuna will be in November 2010, when the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) will have its annual meeting in Paris. Members of EP delegation underlined that it is important that the EU supports a moratorium on bluefin tuna fishing at that meeting.

The EU needs to play a stronger role

Members of the EP delegation also found that EU spent too much energy on trying to reach a common position and therefore did not manage to play a sufficiently strong role. According to Mr Gerbrandy, "the EU member states do not give the loss of biodiversity sufficient urgency by just staring at each other and forgetting that there are 150 other states at CITES to be convinced of the necessity to take action." Mr Eickhout on his part noted that "more general mandates would allow Europe to have more time to discuss the subjects before the conference starts and get supporters for Europe's view".

The EP delegation to the CITES conference was in Doha from March 21 to 23.



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Key objectives for the Conference of the Parties to the CITES Convention (Doha, Qatar, 13-25 March 2010)

European Parliament resolution of 10 February 2010 on the EU strategic objectives for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to be held in Doha (Qatar) from 13 to 25 March 2010

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the forthcoming 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP 15) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to be held from 13 to 25 March 2010 in Doha, Qatar,
 - having regard to the questions of 2 December 2009 to the Council and to the Commission on key objectives for the Conference of the Parties to CITES in Doha, 13-25 March 2010 (O-0145/2009 – B7-0003/2010, O-0146/2009 – B7-0004/2010),
 - having regard to Rules 115(5) and 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas CITES is the largest global wildlife conservation agreement in existence, preventing the over-exploitation of wild fauna and flora through international trade, with 175 parties, including the 27 Member States,
 - B. whereas human consumption of natural resources, habitat destruction, climate change, over-exploitation of wild species and illegal trade in wild fauna and flora are the main causes of the impoverishment of the earth's biodiversity,
 - C. whereas scientific reports predict that climate change will exacerbate the loss of biodiversity and the situation of endangered species,
 - D. whereas CITES should base its decisions on science, and whereas the work of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and that of Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce (TRAFFIC) play an important role in providing CITES Parties with a detailed assessment of proposals to amend the CITES Appendices,
 - E. whereas public awareness in consumer countries has been, and remains, essential to

the control of poaching and illegal international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora,

- F. whereas illegal logging can involve trading in CITES-listed flora species and the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market should ensure that the problem of illegal logging is effectively addressed,
- G. whereas illegal trade seriously undermines the global agenda of environmental and developmental sustainability, undermines good governance and facilitates the spread of communicable diseases,
- H. whereas species covered by CITES are listed in the CITES Appendices on the basis of their conservation status and because they are or may be affected by trade; whereas CITES Appendix I contains species threatened with extinction, international trade in which is prohibited; whereas CITES Appendix II includes species in relation to which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilisation incompatible with their survival; whereas CITES Appendix III contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade,
- I. whereas the Principality of Monaco submitted a proposal to list northern bluefin tuna in CITES Appendix I in order to establish an interim suspension of international commercial trade in the species,
- J. whereas the scientific committee of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), at its meeting of 21-23 October 2009, estimated that the current spawning stock biomass of northern bluefin tuna is less than 15% of what it was before fishing began, therefore confirming that the species meets this criterion for a CITES Appendix I listing,
- K. whereas porbeagles and spiny dogfish are highly vulnerable to overexploitation in fisheries and very slow to recover due to their biological characteristics (slow growth, late maturity, low reproductive capacity, longevity and long generation time),
- L. whereas CITES Appendix II listing for those species is necessary to ensure that future international trade is supplied by sustainably managed, accurately recorded fisheries that are not detrimental to the status of the wild populations they exploit,
- M. whereas CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24 states that species qualify for listing in CITES Appendix I if, inter alia, they 'are or may be affected by trade' and if they show a 'marked decline in the population size in the wild, which has been [...] inferred or projected on the basis of [...] a decrease in area of habitat or a decrease in quality of habitat',
- N. whereas polar bears are severely threatened by loss of habitat due to climate change, which is leading to declining populations throughout most of their range, and they are negatively affected by commercial trade in their body parts which has increased since the 1990s,

- O. whereas CITES Parties agreed during their 14th meeting (CoP 14) that there should be no further proposals to trade in ivory for a period of at least nine years,
- P. whereas the initial call, in discussions at CoP 14, was for a resting period of 20 years and whereas, since then, there have been significant seizures of ivory and reports of widespread and increasing levels of poaching,
- Q. whereas Asian big-cat populations remain under threat from poaching, habitat depletion and prey loss and whereas, despite repeated calls, there has been a disappointing lack of progress in many areas with regard to firm action to halt the decline of tigers and other big cats,
- R. whereas CITES Decision 14.69, adopted at CoP 14, called on Parties with intensive breeding operations to ensure that captive breeding of Asian big cats was commensurate only with conservation, and stated that tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts and derivatives,
- S. whereas the recent Kathmandu Recommendations highlighted the importance of increasing the involvement of international law enforcement bodies, such as Interpol, the World Customs Organisation (WCO), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and CITES, in tackling wildlife crime and called for those bodies' environmental crime units to be enhanced for that purpose,
- T. whereas CITES Decisions 14.35 and 14.36 were adopted by CoP 14 (held in The Hague in 2007), and whereas the anonymity and global reach of the Internet could drastically diminish the ability of CITES Parties to combat illegal trade in wildlife; whereas the rapid growth in e-commerce of specimens of CITES-listed species poses a serious threat to the survival of many species; whereas the global nature of the Internet makes it difficult for CITES Parties to enforce national and international law within their jurisdictions; and whereas e-commerce in wildlife and its products must always be regarded as potential international trade,
 - 1. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to use the precautionary principle as the leading principle for all their decisions on working documents and listing proposals, also taking into account the user-pays principle, the ecosystem approach and traditional conservation principles;
 - 2. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure that any decisions aimed at enhancing coordination between CITES and other biodiversity-related conventions do not undermine the nature of CITES as a global conservation agreement or CITES' strict conservation measures;
 - 3. Strongly opposes the use of secret ballots and is disappointed that the CITES Standing Committee has not come forward with proposals to exclude the possibility of secret voting in CITES' decision-making process;

Bluefin tuna

4. Urges the Commission and the Member States to support the listing of northern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in CITES Appendix I subject to the following three conditions:
 - a guarantee that Commission Regulation (EC) No 865/2006 laying down detailed rules concerning the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein will be amended so as to introduce a general derogation for domestic trade, allowing traditional coastal fishing to continue;
 - provision of EU financial support for the seafarers and vessel owners affected by the decision;
 - introduction of tighter controls and tougher penalties to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
5. Calls on the Commission to provide financial compensation for the fishing sector which may be affected by the potential inclusion of northern bluefin tuna in CITES Appendix I, in order to protect the sector's economic sustainability;

Sharks

6. Strongly welcomes the proposal tabled by Sweden on behalf of the Member States for the listing of the two shark species porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) and spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) in CITES Appendix II; urges the Commission and the Member States to support this proposal;
7. Urges the Commission and the Member States to support the listing of the five shark species scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*), great hammerhead (*Sphyrna mokarran*), smooth hammerhead (*Sphyrna zygaena*), sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*) and dusky shark (*Carcharhinus obscurus*) in CITES Appendix II, in line with the proposal of the United States of America;
8. Urges the Commission and the Member States to support the listing of the oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) in CITES Appendix II, in line with the proposal of the United States of America;

Polar bear

9. Urges the Commission and the Member States to support the transfer of the polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) from CITES Appendix II to CITES Appendix I, in line with the proposal of the United States of America;

Elephants and ivory

10. Urges the Commission and the Member States to reject:

- the proposals from Tanzania and Zambia for the downlisting of the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) from CITES Appendix I to CITES Appendix II with a view to trade;
 - all downlisting proposals for African elephants at least until such time as a true assessment can be made of the impact of the November 2008 ‘one-off’ sales from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, as there is mounting evidence of increasing illegal and organised trade across Africa;
11. Urges the Commission and the Member States to support the proposal made by Kenya, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Togo, Congo and Rwanda to include an annotation for African elephants preventing any future proposals to trade ivory or to downlist elephant populations from CITES Appendix I to CITES Appendix II until 20 years after the date of the one-off sale of ivory that took place in November 2008;
 12. Encourages the CITES Parties who benefited from the one-off sale of government-owned ivory stocks to provide financial support to the African Elephant Fund to enhance enforcement and anti-poaching initiatives;
 13. Encourages wider and more inclusive consultation with all elephant range states in considering action relating to any downlisting of African elephants and subsequent one-off sales;
 14. Encourages the development of more robust methods of monitoring the illegal trade in ivory, involving a wide range of actors;

Tigers and Asian big cats

15. Welcomes the EU’s proposal for strengthening CITES Resolution Conf. 12.5 on conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix I Asian big-cat species;
16. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to support efforts to tackle the illegal trade in Asian big-cat parts and derivatives, with an emphasis on helping to improve enforcement and information exchange, particularly by enhancing the abilities of Interpol, UNODC, WCO and CITES to tackle wildlife crime and provide training;
17. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to support efforts to reduce the demand for Asian big-cat parts and derivatives amongst its own population and in other countries;

Other species

18. Urges the Commission and the Member States to support the following proposals:
 - the listing of *Corallium spp.* and *Paracorallium spp.* in CITES Appendix II, tabled by Sweden on behalf of the Member States;

- the listing of Argentine lignum vitae (*Bulnesia sarmientoi*) in CITES Appendix II, in line with the proposal of Argentina;
 - the transfer of the ornate dabb lizard (*Uromastyx ornata*) from CITES Appendix II to CITES Appendix I, in line with the proposal of Israel;
 - the listing of Kaiser’s spotted newt (*Neurergus kaiseri*) in CITES Appendix I, in line with the proposal of Iran;
 - the listing of Baker's spiny-tailed iguana, the Roatán spiny-tailed iguana and the Honduran paleate spiny-tailed iguana (*Ctenosaura bakeri*, *C. oedirhina* and *C. melanosterna*) in CITES Appendix II, in line with the proposal of Honduras;
 - the listing of red-eyed tree frogs (*Agalychnis spp.*) in CITES Appendix II, in line with the proposal of Honduras and Mexico;
 - the listing of the Guatemalan spiny-tailed iguana (*Ctenosaura palearis*) in CITES Appendix II, in line with the proposal of Guatemala;
 - the listing of pau-rosa (*Aniba rosaeodora*) in CITES Appendix II, in line with the proposal of Brazil;
 - the listing of *Dynastes satanas* in CITES Appendix II, in line with the proposal of Madagascar;
 - the listing of the seeds of *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis* in CITES Appendix II, in line with the proposal of Madagascar;
 - the listing of the seeds of *Dypsis decaryi* in CITES Appendix II, in line with the proposal of Madagascar;
19. Welcomes and supports the listing proposals for plants and plant seed species as tabled by Madagascar;
20. Urges the Commission and the Member States to oppose the following proposals:
- the deletion of the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) from CITES Appendix II;
 - the transfer of the Morelet crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletti*) from CITES Appendix I to CITES Appendix II (proposal by Belize and Mexico);
 - the transfer of the Egyptian population of the Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) from CITES Appendix I to CITES Appendix II (proposal by Egypt);
21. Urges the Commission and the Member States to reject the proposal by the United States and Mexico for the deletion of the cliff spurge (*Euphorbia misera*) from CITES Appendix II;
22. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to step up international cooperation

in the implementation of CITES;

23. Calls on the Commission and Member States to support the inclusion of additional strengthening language, proposed by Germany, in CoP 15 Doc. 32 (E-commerce in specimens of CITES-listed species) and to support the revised proposal;
24. Urges the Commission and the Member States to support the Secretariat's proposals to participate in the development of post-2010 biodiversity targets, the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), including in relation to climate change (CoP 15 Doc. 10.1);
25. Urges the Commission and the Member States to support the proposal CoP 15 Doc. 10.4 of the Chair of the Plants Committee for further collaboration with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
26. Urges the Commission and the Member States to support further action to eliminate illicit trade in Tibetan antelope in line with Secretariat proposal CoP 15 Doc. 46;
27. Urges the Commission and the Member States to support Secretariat proposal CoP 15 Doc. 47 with a view to the compliance of range states of the saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*) to ensure proper implementation of the Saiga Action Plan and compliance with the relevant decisions. It further proposes that the CITES Parties encourage industries that consume saiga horn to contribute to in situ conservation activities aimed at restoring wild populations;
28. Strongly urges the Commission and the Member States to support further action to combat illegal trade in great apes, in line with the Secretariat's proposals as set out in CoP 15 Doc. 42;
29. Strongly urges the Commission and Member States to support efforts within CITES to tackle illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing of humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*);
30. Draws attention to the fact that the European Union is one of the largest markets for the illegal wildlife trade and that compliance varies between Member States, and calls on the Commission and Member States to step up coordination of their efforts to enforce EU wildlife trade legislation;

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31. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Parties to CITES and the CITES Secretariat.