

13/3/00

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

Pursuant to Article 50 of the Rules of Procedure

By Sjöstedt, Gonzalez Alvarez, Papayannakis, Vinci, Manisco,
Fiebiger, on behalf of the Confederal Group of EUL/NGL

On the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES)

The European Parliament,

35-249/00

- having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein,
 - having regard to Resolution Conf. 9.24 on criteria for amending Appendices I and II of CITES,
 - having regard to Resolution Conf. 10.10 on Trade in Elephant Specimens, and Decision 10.1 on conditions for the resumption of trade in African elephant ivory from populations transferred to Appendix II,
 - having regard to Resolutions Conf. 2.7 and 2.9 on trade in whales,
 - having regard to the upcoming Conference of the Parties to the CITES in Nairobi, from the 10th to the 20th of April 2000,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora,
- A. Whereas the CITES is the largest wildlife conservation agreement in existence with 148 parties to the Convention, which seeks to stop or regulate international trade that would be damaging or ultimately cause the extinction of a species,
- B. Aware that the trade in endangered species is at the heart of the relationship between the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development in a way that includes the needs of local populations,
- C. Whereas the overexploitation of wildlife for domestic and international trade can threaten the survival of species,
- D. Whereas the continuing decline in the wild tiger population (from 100.000 in the 19th century their population has declined to between 5.000 and 7.000, while 3 of the 8 sub-species have already been driven to extinction) is due to the illegal trade in living animals, the trade in skins and the use of tiger products in traditional Asian medicine,
- E. Considering that the population of the African elephant has decreased from around 2.3 million in 1970 to less than 700.000 today due to the illegal ivory trade,
- F. Whereas at COP 10 (Harare 1997) the CITES Parties adopted proposals from Namibia, Zimbabwe and Botswana to downlist their elephant populations to Appendix II and were allowed to resume trade in certain elephant products,

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G. Whereas Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe have officially submitted to the CITES Secretariat for consideration at COP 11, proposals so as to approve an annual ivory export quota, and South Africa has asked to transfer its elephant population from Appendix I to Appendix II to allow trade in raw ivory under an experimental quota,

H. Considering that Kenya and India want total protection and have asked the CITES Parties to transfer all elephant populations back to Appendix I, which would ban the international trade in elephant and their products, including ivory,

I. Whereas Cuba has been harvesting sea turtles for many years, required the downlisting of the sea turtle from Appendix I to II, in order to allow international trade in tortoiseshell with Japan,

J. Whereas Norway and Japan have proposed that certain stocks of minke whales and grey whales be downlisted from Appendix I to II of CITES to allow trade in these species,

K. Concerned that some of the proposals before the COP11 for downlisting certain populations of disputed species could lead to a revival of international trade and an increase in poaching,

L. Recognizing that public awareness in consumer states has been and remains essential to the control of poaching and illegal international trade in endangered species of wild fauna nad flora,

1. Calls on the States which have not yet acceded to the CITES to do so without delay,

2. Urges the CITES Parties to oppose the proposals from Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa to trade in elephant specimens and to support Kenya's and India's proposal for the transfer of all elephant populations to CITES Appendix I,

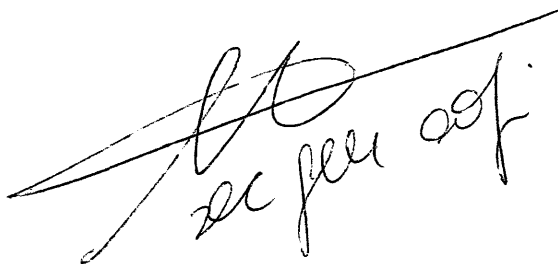
3. Calls the CITES Parties to oppose Cuba's proposals which would allow international trade in sea turtle shell particularly with Japan,

4. Urges the CITES Parties to reject the proposals of Norway and Japan to downlist minke and grey whales to Appendix II,

5. Calls on the Commission and the member states of the EU to enhance cooperation with wildlife exporting countries, many of whose rural people depend on wildlife trade for their livelihood, and give their support to countries which have been able to improve the conservation status of species of wild fauna and flora,

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

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