

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5303/07
by Péter Olajos (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Inclusion of the IUCN among the International Organisations in the new implementing rules relating to the Financial Regulation

The European Parliament has repeatedly demanded that the Commission add the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) to the official list of International Organisations (IO) in the Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) amending Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities. This was initially expressed by Parliament in its resolution of 1 June 2006 on the revision of the Implementing Rules (cf. Amendment 1). It was expressed a second time in Amendment 11 to Article 1, point 32, in the final report A6-0007/2007 (PE 382.446v02-00).

The Commission has determined that the IUCN does not qualify either as an NGO or as an IO, which for all relevant purposes and effects means that the IUCN has no legal status at all under the Financial Regulation and, more generally, vis-à-vis the Commission. This situation is highly prejudicial to both the IUCN and the relevant Commission departments because (a) it prevents the establishment of a strategic, systematic, long-term working relationship on conservation and sustainable development issues of common interest and (b) as a consequence it presents material obstacles to efficient and effective cooperation between the EC and the IUCN on a daily basis.

The Commission is respectfully requested to provide the European Parliament with a clear and complete explanation (i) as to why it refused to add the IUCN to the above-referenced list of IOs notwithstanding the European Parliament's repeated demands to that effect, and (ii) as to what steps the Commission has taken and/or intends to take in order to ensure that the IUCN is afforded fair and equal treatment compared to other organisations.