



2016/2076(INI)

14.7.2016

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

on EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking
(2016/2076(INI))

Rapporteur: Emma McClarkin

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking which will play a crucial role in combating the alarming rise in the illegal trade in wildlife; underlines, in particular, Priority 2 concerning the implementation and enforcement of the relevant existing rules and legal frameworks;
2. Calls for the better use of existing resources, the use of up-to-date technology and adequate training for customs authorities in source, transit and destination countries, especially developing countries, in order to successfully combat the illegal trade in wildlife;
3. Notes that corruption is one of the main enablers and contributors to the trade in illegal wildlife and wildlife products; welcomes the commitment made in the Commission strategy entitled 'Trade for All' to include ambitious anti-corruption provisions in all future trade agreements;
4. Welcomes the inclusion of provisions ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the EU-Vietnam free trade agreement (FTA) and insists on including wildlife protection provisions in all future EU FTAs, including, but not limited to, those with the US and Japan; calls on the Commission to include the analysis of these provisions in its implementation reports;
5. Highlights the importance of ensuring the private sector's involvement in the fight against wildlife trafficking, considering the role played by e-commerce platforms, distribution networks, transport and courier companies;
6. Calls on the EU to explore, within the scope of the WTO framework, how global trade and environmental regimes can better support each other, especially in the light of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, which opens new avenues for cooperation between customs, wildlife and trade officials, especially in developing countries.