

**Priority question for written answer P-003768/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Threat to EU instrument makers

On 25 January 2023, the EU's Scientific Review Group (SRG), chaired by the Commission, announced that it would ban imports of tree species listed in the Appendices to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) from 'areas where there is no long-term or legal aim to maintain the land as forest'.

After learning about this new criterion for permanent forest domains, the national authorities of the exporting countries, timber suppliers and European firms concerned indicated their disappointment at not having been consulted prior to the decision. The absence of a moratorium directly threatens imports of *Dalbergia Melanoxylon* and *Swietenia macrophylla*, putting instrument makers at risk, in particular those who make clarinets, oboes and guitars.

1. Does the Commission plan to defend in the SRG the introduction of a moratorium to enable all stakeholders to comply with the new requirement concerning permanent forest domains, thereby helping to preserve the exceptional know-how of instrument makers in the EU?
2. Will the Commission carry out an impact assessment, taking into account all the issues and all the contributions of the parties concerned, before establishing new criteria limiting the import of timber species listed in the CITES Appendices?

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