



COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY
THE SECRETARIAT

Brussels, 2 July 2007

SUMMARY NOTE
EP-MEMBERS IN THE EC-DELEGATION TO
THE FOURTEEN CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP-14) TO THE
CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF
WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES).
DEN HAAG, 13 JUNE 2007

I. BACKGROUND

CITES COP 14 is the first COP that will be held within the EU and also the first time that a ministerial segment will take place during the conference. Due to the fact that the "Gaborone" amendment is not enforced, the European Union is not yet a party to the Convention and will participate in the COP with observer status. The Community's position will be expressed jointly by the EU Member States.

CITES is a not an instrument to ban trade but to ensure that species who are endangered are effectively protected. The overall purpose is to ensure that allowed trade is based on sustainability.

Parliament expressed its priorities in a resolution adopted at the May part-session.

II. COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION

By letter of 26 April 2007, Parliament asked for the inclusion of 3 MEP's in the EC delegation to the COP-14 to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which was authorised by both Council and Commission.

The following MEP's participated in the delegation to the Conference: Ms Dorette Corbey (PSE, Netherlands) and Mrs Anne Ferreira (PSE, France).

Mr Rik Harmsen (assistant of Dorette Corbey), Mr Cédric Cabanne, (assistant of Marie Anne Isler Béguin) and Mr Guy Deregnacourt of the Environment Committee Secretariat, accompanied the Delegation.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE DELEGATION

1. Preparatory meetings

Before departure, MEP's were briefed by the European Commission on the main issues of the COP.

The elaboration of a "new strategic vision (2008-2013)" for CITES will be one of the main topics of the COP and; the orientation that will be taken will be of great importance for the budgetary decisions that need to be adopted. The EU calls for the reinforcement of efforts leading to effective enforcement of the Convention and has prepared an Action Plan on Wildlife Trade Enforcement.

The COP should also reconfirm the important contribution of CITES in contributing to reaching the 2010 target of halting the loss of biodiversity. It is the first time that the EU proposes to list several marine and timber species on CITES.

2. Meeting with Mr Wijnstekers, CITES General Secretary

During this meeting, the General Secretary of CITES explained the history behind the "elephants" discussion, one of the main issues of this COP.

The lack of consensus on the strategic vision for the 2008-2013 (and the link between CITES and the Conference on Biodiversity) largely conditioned the debate on the budget issue. The actual budget of CITES represents 5 million USD annually and, the US and Japan propose no budget increase compared to 2006. If this proposal is to be adopted, it will lead to a 20% decrease of the budget in real terms.

3. Meeting with the EU Presidency

On Tuesday evening members were invited to a dinner hosted by the German Presidency. This gave Members an opportunity to discuss current issues related to the progress of the Conference.

4. Debriefing by Commission

In the continued absence of authorisation for Members to attend the daily coordination meetings of EC delegations, members of the Delegation were briefed by the Commission at their arrival.

The representative of the Commission presents to the delegation the state of play of the negotiations on the main issues (strategic vision, budget, elephants, sharks, timber...)

5. Meetings with other delegations

The debates with national Delegation from Peru and Malaysia focused on forest and timber protection. The delegates explained the timber certification and trade system in place in their respective countries and emphasises the strong political will of their government to protect the resource. They claim for EU support.

The Delegation also met representatives from Kenya and Nigeria. The discussion focuses on the elephant's issue which was under very difficult negotiations at that time. Unfortunately, because of the ongoing negotiations on the issue it was not possible to arrange a meeting with the Delegations from Namibia and Botswana.

6. Other meetings held

In addition, the MEPs had helpful exchanges of views with environmental NGOs:

- International Fund for Animal Welfare
- TRAFFIC- joint programme of World Wildlife Fund and UICN (the world conservation union)
- Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS)

The delegation also meets with Ian Redmond, Chief Consultant for UNEP/UNESCO Great Ape Survival project, who presented a project to include all forest activities into a global carbon market mechanism.

IV. COP-14 Conclusions

The Conference adopted a new **strategic vision** for CITES for the next six years (2008-2013). The new CITES objective is to “*Conserve biodiversity and contribute to its sustainable use by ensuring that no species of wild fauna or flora becomes or remains subject to unsustainable exploitation through international trade, thereby contributing to the significant reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss.*”

The Strategic Vision set three goals (ensure compliance, implementation and enforcement of the Convention; secure the necessary financial resources and means for the Convention's operation and implementation; and contribute to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by ensuring coherence between CITES and other multilateral instruments and processes) with a number of associated objectives.

The new strategic vision firmly places CITES within the wider international biodiversity and development agenda, thus reaffirming the commitment of CITES to contribute to achieving the global target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. The vision embraces the principle of sustainability and advocates a coherent approach to addressing unsustainable trade in all species, including those that are commercially exploited.

Closely linked to the strategic vision was the **budget issue**. Following a proposal by Ireland, a 6% nominal increase in the budget was finally accepted.

The Conference also endorsed EU proposals aimed at enhancing **compliance and enforcement** and strengthening efforts by Parties to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species. They focus on improving enforcement cooperation within and among countries, applying sanctions for illegal wildlife trade that are appropriate to their nature and gravity, as well as addressing illegal trade over the **internet**. The Conference also strongly advised range States to urgently strengthen efforts to stop illegal trade in critically endangered **big Asian cat** species.

The Conference reached a solution on the **ivory issue**. The consensus agreement authorizes a one-off sale of raw ivory originating from government stocks registered by 31 January 2007, from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, in addition to quantities agreed at CoP12, subject to verification of trading partners. It also states that no further ivory trade proposals shall be submitted to the CoP for nine years after the one-off sale; and the secretariat may decide to stop trade in case of non-compliance or proven detrimental impacts on other elephant populations.

The agreement also includes an African Elephant Action Plan to be developed by the African countries. The Action Plan calls on: prohibition of the unregulated domestic sale of ivory, enforcement of existing and new legislation, and promotion of public awareness. All parties will have to report ivory seizures, changes in legislation and enforcement measures. This will be supported financially by a newly established African Elephant Fund.

The historic consensus between African Ministers ends 18 years of controversial debates in CITES, thus paving the way for more constructive dialogue on elephant conservation programmes in the coming years. Discussion on adopting a mechanism for decision-making on future sales will only take place at the 16th meeting of the Conference of Parties.

On **marine species**, the EU proposal for listing European eels on CITES was adopted. International trade in the European eel will be regulated in order to prevent over fishing of eels and glass eels for the international market. The European Commission has just adopted this week a European eel action plan for the conservation of the European eel. The regulation and control of the international trade through CITES is a complementary action to various conservation actions for this species. EU Proposals for adopting two shark species did not reach the necessary 2/3 majority. Delegates also agreed that no cetacean species should be subject to periodic review while the International Whaling Commission (IWC) moratorium is in place.

The CoP took a decision to strengthen measures to control the trade in sturgeon **caviar** in order to reduce illegal trade and to establish a transparent process for range States to set quotas for shared sturgeon stocks that ensure that harvesting and trade will not be detrimental to conservation of the species in the wild. The European Commission has already taken measures to tackle illegal trade in caviar by requiring that all tins of caviar imported, exported or marketed in the EU bear a specific label certifying that it is legally sourced

Concerning **timber**, the EU proposals for improved trade regulation of three tree species (*Cedrela* and 2 *Dalbergia* species) under CITES were not endorsed by the Parties. Nevertheless, an action plan was endorsed which will result in further information gathering in view of proposing additional measures during the next Conference. The proposal of Brazil to regulate the trade in Brazil wood was adopted by consensus.

In line with the new strategic vision for CITES, the Conference of the Parties agreed to a proposal co-sponsored by the EU to develop tools and guidelines to assist Parties in addressing the impacts of CITES listing decisions on the **livelihoods** of the poor, particularly in developing countries.

V. CONCLUDING COMMENTS

The first ministerial-level meeting held in parallel with the CoP helped to boost political will for implementing CITES, strengthen the Convention's role within the broader development agenda, and consider appropriate protection for commercially-exploited timber and fisheries species.

CoP 14 will be remembered as the meeting that chartered the Convention's future by strategically positioning this well-established treaty within new global priorities and realities such as globalization, biodiversity loss and natural resource depletion, and the fight against poverty, while building upon its mandate and core competencies.

Nevertheless, the Members of the Delegation express their concern in relation with the lack of ambitions of the budgetary decision. The budget of CITES represent only around 5 millions USD and it is expected that the Member states will take into account the exchange rate disparity between Euro and USD.

The usual rules for participation of MEP's in the EU delegation applied. This meant in particular that EP members were excluded from the EU co-ordination meetings at which the latest developments were reviewed and the stance to be taken by the EU in the negotiations was discussed.

Annexes:

- Programme of the delegation
- European Parliament resolution of 24 May 2007 on the EU strategic objectives for the 14th 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 The Hague, 3-15 June 2007.

PARLEMENT EUROPEEN



EP DELEGATION

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

COP 14, Den Haag, Netherlands

Programme

Tuesday, 12 June 2007: Individual arrivals, at *HAMPSHIRE HOTEL, Laan van Meerdervoort 108, Den Haag, Tel: 0031 70 360 53 85.*

19h00-20h00 Meeting with Mr WIJNSTEKERS, General Secretary of CITES, *at the Hotel Golden Tulip Bel Air Hotel, Johan de Wittlaan 30, , La Haye.*

20h00 Dinner hosted by the German Presidency Bistroquet, 98 Lange Voorhout)

Wednesday, 13 June 2007:

8h30 Meeting of the delegation at the lounge of HAMPSHIRE HOTEL,
Departure to Conference Venue and accreditation

9h00 - 10h00 Briefing by Commission delegation, *at the World Forum Convention Center (WFCC) 10, Churchillplein, NL-2508 EA LA HAYE*

10h00- 10h30 Meeting with Mikael Conny Svensson (Int. Fund for Animal Welfare)

10h30 - 12h30 Plenary/Meeting with delegations present at the conference

12h30 - 13h00 Meeting with Rob Parry-Jones (TRAFFIC Europe)

13h00 – 13h30 Meeting with N. Entrup, Managing Director, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society

13h00 - 14h30 Lunch

15h00 - 16h00 Meeting with the delegation of the Dutch National parliament to CITES, *in the House of Representatives at Plein 2, The Hague*

16h15 - 17h00 Carbon markets: A new opportunity to protect tropical forests.
Meeting with Ian Redmont (UNEP/UNESCO Great Ape Survival Project)

17h00 – 18h00 Meeting with delegations present at the conference
Departure of the delegation

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European Parliament resolution of 24 May 2007 on the EU strategic objectives for the 14th 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 The Hague, 3-15 June 2007

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP 14) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to be held from 3 to 15 June 2007 in The Hague, the Netherlands,

– having regard to Rule 108(5) 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 171 parties, including the 27 Member States of the European Union,

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 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,

E. whereas illegal trade seriously undermines the global agenda of environmental and developmental sustainability,

F. whereas the EU's Sustainable Development Strategy provides the framework for responsible and sustainable management of natural resources,

G. whereas a UK Presidency workshop on "EU Wildlife Trade Law Enforcement Coordination", held from 25 to 27 October 2005, resulted in a widely endorsed draft Action Plan for Combating Illicit Wildlife Trade in the European Union (2006-2010),

H. whereas CITES has a complementary role to that of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other international bodies in the conservation of marine species which may be threatened by international trade,

I. whereas the International Whaling Commission (IWC), recognised by CITES as the body having authority to regulate the conservation and management of whales, has decreed a worldwide moratorium on commercial whaling,

J. whereas Japan has proposed in CoP 14 Doc. 51 that all cetaceans in Appendix I that are managed by the IWC be included in the Periodic Review of the Appendices, that the CITES Resolution Conf. 11.4 setting out the relationship between the IWC and CITES be amended and that the IWC provide scientific data and advice on CITES listings of whale species,

K. whereas the European Parliament in its resolution of 7 July 2005 on speeding up implementation of the EU action plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)⁽¹⁾ expressed its disappointment regarding the "extraordinarily slow progress" in the FLEGT process; whereas in the absence of compulsory and comprehensive regulations prohibiting the importing of illegal and unsustainably harvested timber into the EU, CITES initiatives to regulate international trade in timber species are essential,

L. whereas at CoP 12, contrary to the European Parliament recommendation, a decision was adopted to allow a one-off sale of government-owned ivory stocks from Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, subject to conditions, and whereas the conditions for trade laid down in those decisions have still not been fulfilled,

M. whereas seizures of illegal ivory have increased significantly since CoP 13, and 20 000 or more elephants are estimated to be killed annually; whereas further opening of the ivory trade would have a detrimental impact on already depleted and fragmented elephant populations in other countries across

Africa and Asia,

N. whereas the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals has listed the Great White Shark in Appendices I and II of that convention, whereas Australia listed the species in CITES Appendix III in 2001, with reservations from Norway and Japan, and whereas the World Conservation Union (IUCN) has listed the species as "vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species since 1996,

O. whereas Asian big-cat populations are under increasing threat and there has been a disappointing lack of progress in taking firm action to halt the decline of tigers and other big cats,

P. whereas universal caviar labelling requirements were introduced in May 2005 to regulate the caviar trade,

Q. whereas species conservation must remain the grounds for justifying listing decisions and whereas considerations on the impact on people's livelihoods should be taken into account in implementing listing decisions,

R. whereas there is nothing to prevent the EU from adopting stricter measures internally on imports of wild animals, based on species-conservation objectives or other grounds, such as concerns for animal welfare,

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 enhanced 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 using secret voting in the decision-making process of the Convention;
4. Welcomes the proposals by Kenya and Mali to establish a 20-year moratorium on all ivory trade, supported by Togo and Ghana, as well as the Accra Declaration, which calls for a ban on the ivory trade and is signed by representatives of 19 African countries;
5. Recalls that the proposed moratorium will not affect the decision taken at CoP 12 to allow, subject to conditions, a one-off sale of government-owned ivory stocks from Botswana, Namibia and South Africa;
6. Stresses that acceptance of the proposal by Kenya and Mali would give time to refine MIKE (Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants) and allow the international community to change the focus of the debate from the ivory trade to the real threats to elephants and their habitats;
7. Urges that the decision taken at CoP 13 for the implementation of an action plan for the control of trade in African elephant ivory, including reporting requirements, be fully executed by African governments in collaboration with NGOs;
8. Calls on the Commission to support efforts to improve and monitor tiger conservation, for example by identifying legislative gaps, implementation difficulties, and enforcement and capacity weaknesses;
9. Calls on the Commission to report on progress in implementing the caviar labelling requirements, to encourage other key producing and consuming states in Europe, North America and Asia to implement the labelling system, and to strengthen the process for establishing sustainable export quotas based on the most reliable and up-to-date scientific information;
10. Urges the EU to support the following proposals for the CoP:
 - the transfer of *Nycticebus spp.* (slow loris) from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I;
 - the rejection of the deletion of *Lynx rufus* (bobcat) from CITES Appendix II owing to the look-alike problem with the European lynx (*Lynx lynx*) and the Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*);
 - the listing of the two shark species *Lamna nasus* (porbeagle) and

Squalus acanthias (spiny dogfish) in CITES Appendix II tabled by Germany on behalf of the Member States;

- the listing of *Pristidae spp.* (sawfish) which are all listed as Critically Endangered by IUCN in CITES Appendix I;
- the listing of *Anguilla anguilla* (European eel) in CITES Appendix II tabled by Germany on behalf of the Member States;
- the listing of *Pterapogon kauderni* (Banggai cardinalfish) in CITES Appendix II;
- the listing of tropical tree taxa brazilwood (*Caesalpinia echinata*), rosewood (*Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii*) and cedar (*Cedrela spp*) in CITES Appendix II;
- the listing of *Lycaon pictus* (African wild dog) in CITES Appendix II;
- the working document on compliance and enforcement tabled by Germany on behalf of the Member States;
- the working document on internet trade in specimens of CITES listed species tabled by Germany on behalf of the Member States;
- the four proposals by Algeria to list *Cervus elaphus barbarus* (Barbary red deer), *Gazella cuvieri* (Atlas Mountain gazelle), *Gazella dorcas* (dorcas gazelle), *Gazella leptoceros* (slender-horned gazelle) in CITES Appendix I;
- the working document on trade in traditional medicines tabled by Australia;
- the proposal by Kenya and Mali to establish a 20-year moratorium on all ivory trade;

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

- CoP 14 Doc. 51 on cetaceans by Japan;
- export quotas for *Diceros bicornis* (black rhinoceros) for Namibia and South Africa;
- the replacement of all existing annotations to the listings of the Botswana, Namibian, South African and Zimbabwe elephant populations in CITES Appendix II to allow the establishment of annual export quotas for trade in raw ivory;
- the amendment to the annotation to the listing of the Botswana elephant population in CITES Appendix II to allow for the establishment of annual export quotas for trade in raw ivory, trade in live animals for commercial purposes, trade in leather goods for commercial purposes, trade in hides for commercial purposes and trade in hunting trophies for non-commercial purposes;
- the proposal expanding trade in wool from *Vicugna vicugna* (vicuña) to nine populations in Bolivia, as some of these populations are very small;
- the proposal to transfer the Brazilian population of *Melanosuchus niger* (black caiman) from CITES Appendix I to Appendix II;
- the proposal to downlist the leopard (*Panthera pardus*) population to Appendix II of CITES and to increase the export quota for hunting trophies from Mozambique;

12. Understands that CITES can best contribute to the livelihoods of the poor through ensuring implementation and enforcement of the convention and preventing unregulated and illegal trade, and therefore calls on the Commission and Member States to withdraw CoP 14 Doc.14, "CITES and Livelihoods";

13. Calls on the Commission and Member States to step up international cooperation in the

implementation of CITES by developing a strategy with identified priorities to facilitate implementation and by providing additional incentives and financial support, particularly for training and technical assistance in species identification and enforcement measures;

14. Recalls 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;

15. Urges those parties to CITES which have not done so to ratify the Gaborone Amendment, which would allow the European Community to become a contracting party to CITES;

16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the parties to CITES and the CITES Secretariat.

(1) OJ C 157 E, 6.7.2006, p. 482.