

Summary of Conclusions of the

1st MEETING OF THE EU CITES COMMITTEE - TRADE IN SEAL PRODUCTS

Brussels, 21st January 2010

- Introduction by the Chairman

- 1) The revised agenda was adopted without any additional suggestions. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, the Chairman informed the Committee that he invited experts to make presentations under agenda point 3) and 5). The afternoon session was reserved for the discussion of possible elements for an implementing regulation presented by the Commission.

2) **Short report by the Commission on policy context**

The Chairman provided a short oral report on the policy context, which motivated the European Parliament as well as the Council to adopt, on 16 September 2009, a Regulation on trade in seal products. The Regulation was published in the Official Journal of the EU on 31 October 2010¹. The aim of this Regulation is to ensure that products derived from seals are no longer found on the European market. The Regulation foresees limited exemptions to respect the fundamental economic and social interests of Inuit and other indigenous communities and the need to conduct hunting for the purpose of sustainable management of marine resources on a not-for-profit basis and for non-commercial purposes. The Commission had been tasked by the co-legislators to adopt implementing measures in that regard within nine months following publication of the Regulation in the Official Journal.

The Chairman underlined that the adoption of the implementing measures would be made under regulatory procedure with parliamentary scrutiny as laid down in Article 5a of Decision 1999/448/EC. Hence, the Chairman pointed out that, in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1007/2009, the Commission would be assisted by the EU CITES Committee to develop adequate implementing measures. In addition, he said that the Committee could call upon other existing regulatory Committees, such as the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health.

3) **Information on the study on implementing measures for trade in seal products**

COWI, a consultancy firm specialised in the field of engineering, environmental science and economics, presented the preliminary findings of a Commission study on possible elements for implementing measures for trade in seal products.

¹ Regulation No 1007/2009 published in JO L 286/36 of 31.10.2009

4) Technical guidance on the use of the Combined Nomenclature

In accordance with Article 3(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1007/2009, the Commission is asked to issue technical guidance notes setting out an indicative list of the codes of the Combined Nomenclature which may cover seal products. Accordingly, the Commission presented to the Committee an overview of products that contain or may contain seal derivatives and two options how they should be dealt with under the regulation. The Chairman invited the Member States to consult with their respective customs and enforcement authorities on the two options presented and submit comments on the preferred way forward **by 11 February** at the latest. (**ACTION**)

5) Presentation on the current system in Greenland for trade in sealskins and future ideas

A representative of the Greenland Self Rule Government gave a presentation on the current system in place in Greenland for trade in seal products and any future developments.

6) Commission non-paper on possible elements for a Commission implementing regulation on trade in seal products

The Committee exchanged views on possible elements for a Commission implementing regulation presented by the Commission. The Chairman invited the Member States to provide their comments on this non-paper, and any other possible elements, by **11 February** at the latest. (**ACTION**)

7) Any other business

The Chairman informed the Member States that the next Committee meeting would be held on 14 April 2010. In view of that meeting, he said that the Commission would prepare a draft implementing regulation taking into account any comments by Member States. Due to the short timeframe set by the co-legislators for the adoption of the implementing measures, i.e. 20 August 2010, and in view of ensuring a well coordinated approach, the Chairman underlined the importance of respecting the set deadlines under Agenda points 4) and 6).

ATTENDANCE LIST
of the
CITES COMMITTEE MEETING – TRADE IN SEAL PRODUCTS

Brussels, 21 January 2010

MEMBER STATE	ORGANISATION	PARTICIPANTS
AUSTRIA	Ministry of the Environment	1
BELGIUM	SPF – Santé Publique, Sécurité de la chaîne alimentaire et Environnement	2
BULGARIA	Ministry of Environment and Water	1
CYPRUS	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	0
CZECH REPUBLIC	Ministry of the Environment	2
DENMARK	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2
ESTONIA	Ministry of Environment	1
FINLAND	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	2
FRANCE	Ministère de l'écologie, de l'énergie, du développement durable et de la mer	1
GERMANY	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection	1
	Federal Ministry of food, Agriculture	1
GREECE	Ministry of the Environment, Energy & Climate change	0
GREENLAND		
HUNGARY	Ministry of Environment and Water	1
IRELAND	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government	0
ITALY	Ministero delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali	1
LATVIA	Dabas aizsardzības pārvalde	0

LITHUANIA	Ministry of the Environment	0
LUXEMBOURG	Ministry of Environment	0
MALTA	Environment and Planning Authority	0
NETHERLANDS	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality	1
POLAND	Ministry of Environment	1
PORTUGAL	Instituto da Conservação da Natureza	0
ROMANIA	Ministry of Environment and Forestry	1
SLOVENIA	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning	1
SLOVAKIA	Ministry of Environment	1
SPAIN	Estructura de Apoyo	1
SWEDEN	Swedish Board of Agriculture	1
UNITED KINGDOM	DEFRA	2
	UK Border Agency	1

EXPERTS INVITED BY THE CHAIRMAN

COWI Belgium / ECORYS Nederland	Consultancy firms conducting European Commission's study	2
GREENLAND	Self Rule Government	2