

**Short Summary of Conclusions of the
19th MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE IN WILD
FAUNA AND FLORA¹**

Brussels, 7 March 2001

1. The agenda was adopted.
2. The summary of conclusions of the 17th meeting was adopted.

3. Outstanding Action Points

Activities on CITES implementation in candidate Member States

The Netherlands informed the Commission about a study visit by CITES authorities from four Eastern European countries.

Italy reported that Eastern European countries would be invited to the next International Flora and Fauna meeting of Interpol which will take place in Rome from 16-18 May.

4. Commission proposal for a revision of Regulation 939/97

At the 18th Committee meeting in December 2000, a first draft of the revised Regulation was discussed. At this meeting, the deliberations about a new version, incorporating the comments made in December and subsequent written comments by Member States, continued.

The Commission said that a final proposal in all Community languages would be made in due course.

5. Administrative agreement on the application of Regulation 338/97 with respect to trade in hard corals – Conference Resolution 11.10

The Committee agreed to take this issue up at the next meeting on the basis of a draft proposal to amend the appendices of Regulation 338/97.

6. Acceptance of faxed/photocopied export permits in the case of Article 4.2(b) of Regulation 338/97 (F)

The Member States confirmed that faxed/photocopied export permits were acceptable for these purposes.

¹ Draft conclusions subject to final confirmation upon approval of the minutes of the meeting by the representatives of the Member States

7. EU representation at the CITES Mahogany Working Group meeting in Bolivia (July 2001 ?)

None of the Member States had concrete plans to participate in the meeting. Commission to be informed in case of participation.

8. Frequent transborder movements of personally owned lived animals (pet passport); petition addressed to the Commission by Switzerland on a practical solution in the light of Conference Resolution 10.20

The item was deferred to the next meeting.

9. Follow-up of EC Bilateral Agreement on Agriculture/Switzerland in relation to trade with artificially propagated plants included in Annex B to Regulation 338/97

It had to be clarified if the Bilateral Agreement with Switzerland can supersede the Council Regulation. Commission to investigate further.

10. Replacement of blue certificates issued under the old Regulation by new ones (D)

Given the need for a valid exemption from the prohibitions in Art. 8(1) of Regulation 338/97, the Commission strongly recommended the use of the new certificates.

11. Use of “Convention on Biodiversity language” on CITES permits

The Committee agreed that in view of the growing importance of CBD-related matters and the desirable synergy between CBD and CITES, it was important to address this issue without delay in the relevant EU bodies.

12. Any Other Business

Reorganisation of CITES MA in France

The representative of France confirmed that the issuing of permits has been delegated to the 26 regions as from 1 January 2001. The Commission asked for an official notification.

Update on Irish ratification of CITES

The Commission informed the Member States that Ireland has passed legislation which allows them to join CITES.

Report on Mega-Biodiversity Workshop with 11 major wildlife exporting countries in Brussels, organised by the Secretariat with Commission funding

The Commission undertook to circulate the report on the workshop by the CITES Secretariat once it is available.

Results of 24th session of COFI/FAO meeting in Rome

The Greek delegate, who participated in this meeting, reported that FAO comments on CITES listing criteria could not be expected shortly. The formal adoption of the FAO comments is envisaged for March 2002.

Application of Article 9.4 of Regulation 338/97 in the Member States

New Outstanding Action Point: Member States to inform the Commission about their measures to implement Article 9.4.