

Agenda

Expert Conference on the EU Approach against Wildlife Trafficking

**10 April 2014, Brussels
(Centre de Conférence Albert Borschette,
rue Froissart 36, room 0D)**

Expected participants: approx. 170 representatives from EU Member States, EU institutions, judges and prosecutors networks, international organizations, civil society and key third countries.

Purpose of the Conference: identify measures and actions to be undertaken by the EU domestically and internationally to strengthen its approach against wildlife trafficking. The Conference marks the end of the stakeholder consultation launched by the European Commission through the "Communication on the EU approach against wildlife trafficking".¹

Format: Three panel sessions, each starting with a brief overview over key preliminary findings of the stakeholder consultation on the respective topic and short introductory statements by the panellists, to be followed by interactive discussion with the audience.

08h00 – 09h30 Registration of participants

Opening session

9h30 to 10h00

Opening statement Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment

Statement by Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Member of the European Parliament and Vice-Chairman ENVI Committee

Video message John Scanlon, Secretary-General of CITES

¹ Cf. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52014DC0064:EN:NOT>

Morning session

10h00 to 11h30 – Part I: *Strengthening EU enforcement against wildlife trafficking*

Moderator	Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea, Director for Implementation, Governance and Semester, DG Environment
Panelists	Franz Boehmer, Enforcement officer in the German CITES Management Authority
	Grant Miller, Senior Officer, CITES Enforcement, Heathrow Airport, UK
	Andrew Bird, Prosecuting Barrister, UK
	Jan Van den Berghe, Vice President of the Court of First Instance, Ghent, Belgium
	Azzedine Downes, President, IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare)

The discussion aims at identifying key elements of strengthening enforcement of existing EU rules on illegal wildlife trade. Issues to be considered include e.g. effective cross agency cooperation, the added value of specialized units, improved data gathering, ways of better mobilizing the judiciary, current sanction types and levels, and police and judicial cooperation between Member States.

11h30 to 12h00 Coffee break

12.00h to 13h30 – Part II: *Fight against organized wildlife crime*

Moderator	Anabela Gago, Head of the Unit, Organized Crime, DG Home Affairs
Panelists	Debbie Banks, EIA (Environment Investigation Agency)
	John M. Sellar OBE (Anti-Smuggling, Fraud and Organized Crime Consultant)
	Jorge Rios, Coordinator of the Global Wildlife and Forest Crime Programme, UN Office for Drugs and Crime
	Catherine Alfonsi, Europol (EU's law enforcement agency)
	Leif Goerts, Eurojust (EU's Judicial Cooperation Unit)

Building on the first panel concerning general improvement of enforcement in the EU, the second panel will focus on how to use more effectively the existing EU instruments against organized crime and discuss gaps where adjustments or additional measures may be required. Issues to be considered include e.g. whether there is a need to approximate sanction levels in the Member States for organized wildlife crime, the role of Europol and Eurojust, the link with money laundering and other illicit financial flows. Questions concerning global action such as a potential additional protocol to the UNTOC can also be addressed.

13h30 to 15h00 Lunch Break

Afternoon Session

EU action at international level- Development Support and Diplomatic Action

15h00 to 15h15 **Opening statement**, Roberto Ridolfi, Director for sustainable growth and development, Directorate General for Development and Cooperation (DG DEVCO)

15h15 to 17h15 **Panel discussion**

Moderator	Timo Makela, Director for Global and Regional Challenges, DG Environment
Panelists	Henri Djombo, Minister for Forestry Economy and Sustainable Development, Republic of Congo
	Christine Dawson, Director, Office of Conservation and Water, U.S. Department of State
	Wan Ziming, CITES Management Authority, China
	Patrick Omondi, Wildlife Service, Kenya
	Steve Broad, Executive Director, TRAFFIC
	Daniel Guyader, Head of Global Issues Division, European External Action Service (EEAS)
	Cristiana Pasca Palmer, Head of Unit, Climate Change, Environment, Natural Resources, DG DEVCO

The discussion with the audience will focus on two main areas:

- Instruments and objectives for raising the profile of wildlife trafficking on the bilateral, regional and multilateral diplomatic agenda and on the role of the EU in this. Issues to be considered include i.a. the role of EU delegations, a possible UNGA Resolution, a possible UN Special Envoy, and the role of EU trade and partnership and cooperation agreements.
- Funding priorities and donor coordination for maximizing the impact of development cooperation aid against wildlife trafficking. Issues to be considered include i.a. the best focus of financial support against wildlife trafficking in source, transit and consumer countries, as well as in support of international cooperation, and mechanism for improve the coordination between donor activities.

17h15 to 17h30 Wrap-up of key findings / Closing of the Conference

Hugo-Maria Schally, Head of Unit, Global Sustainability, Trade and Multilateral Agreements, DG Environment

Followed by a Cocktail Reception

On **11 April 2014 from 10h00 to 13h00**, two parallel **workshops** will take place with representatives of governments and international governmental organizations only

Workshop I (Moderator H. Schally, DG ENV)

Strengthening enforcement and the fight against organized wildlife crime in the EU

Centre de Conférence Albert Borschette, rue Froissart 36, room 1D

Workshop II (Moderator M. Van Opstal, Head of the EU Delegation, Republic of Congo)

Strengthening EU action at diplomatic/development support level

Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 99-101, room JDE 70

In these workshops, participants will discuss in more depth and in a smaller setting some of the essential findings of the conference in the respective areas so as to allow for identifying more concretely possible follow up steps for EU action.