

Factual summary report of the public consultation by the Directorate General for the Environment of the European Commission on ivory trade in the European Union

January 2018

1. Introduction

The European Commission carried out a public consultation to gather evidence on ivory trade and ivory trafficking within the European Union (EU) between 15th September and 8th December 2017. Ivory trade in the EU is subject to strict EU rules. The consultation aimed to compile information and views on the extent, structure and main features of legal and illegal trade in ivory in and from the EU, as well as on the priorities that the EU should follow in its approach against ivory trafficking. The consultation was undertaken as part of the wider process to help guide the Commission's approach, in line with *Objective 1.1 Reduce demand for and supply of illegal wildlife products, Action 2. Further limit trade in ivory within and from the EU* of the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking (COM (2016) 87 final)¹ and related Council conclusions².

The public consultation forms one of several activities for the process that included a stakeholder meeting on ivory trade held in Brussels on 8th December 2017. The meeting was live web-streamed and recorded³.

This factual summary report provides an overview of the profile of respondents. A further in-depth synopsis report will follow that will include a full comprehensive analysis and summary of responses to all questions of the consultation.

2. Approach to the consultation

The public consultation was carried out using the survey tool "EU Survey"⁴. This is the Commission's online survey management tool, which is used to conduct multilingual online public consultations. The questionnaire was available online via EU Survey in six languages (English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish). The public consultation had the objective to gather opinions and evidence from a wide set of stakeholders and citizens primarily from EU Member States but also international stakeholders and citizens.

The questionnaire had three sections: (1) involvement in ivory trade (2) illegal trade of ivory in the EU and (3) EU priorities in relation to ivory.

The consultation was advertised on the Directorate-General for the Environment of the European Commission social media (Facebook and twitter) and through the newspaper "Environment for Europeans"⁵ as well as via Member States through their channels. The consultation was made widely available to anyone with internet access and an interest in the subject however it is not statistically representative of the European population and the outcomes cannot be extrapolated.

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2016:87:FIN>

² <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-10512-2016-INIT/en/pdf>

³ <https://webcast.ec.europa.eu/stakeholders-hearing-on-the-european-commission-consultation-on-ivory-trade>

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/home/welcome>

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/efe/themes/nature-and-biodiversity/eu-gets-tougher-ivory-trafficking_en

3. Responses to the consultation

3.1 Number of replies received

The public consultation received a high level of interest from a wide range of individuals and organisations across the EU and beyond. In total, 89 813 replies were received.

Respondents were not required to answer all the questions. Questions in section B (involvement in ivory trade) were only shown to respondents if they answered “Yes” to question 1 “Are you or your organisation directly or indirectly involved in ivory trade?” and received a total of 177 replies.

3.2 Distribution by type of stakeholder

Respondents were asked to identify which stakeholder category they or their organisation represented. Respondents could select multiple categories and had the option to tick “other” if they did not fit into one of the existing categories. The main category of respondents was private individuals (83 835 responses, 93.3%). Table 1 outlines the respondents by each category.

Table 1: Answers to question 6, section A of the public consultation "Which of the following you or your organisation represents" in shares of total numbers of respondents. Note: respondents could select multiple answers (n=89 813)

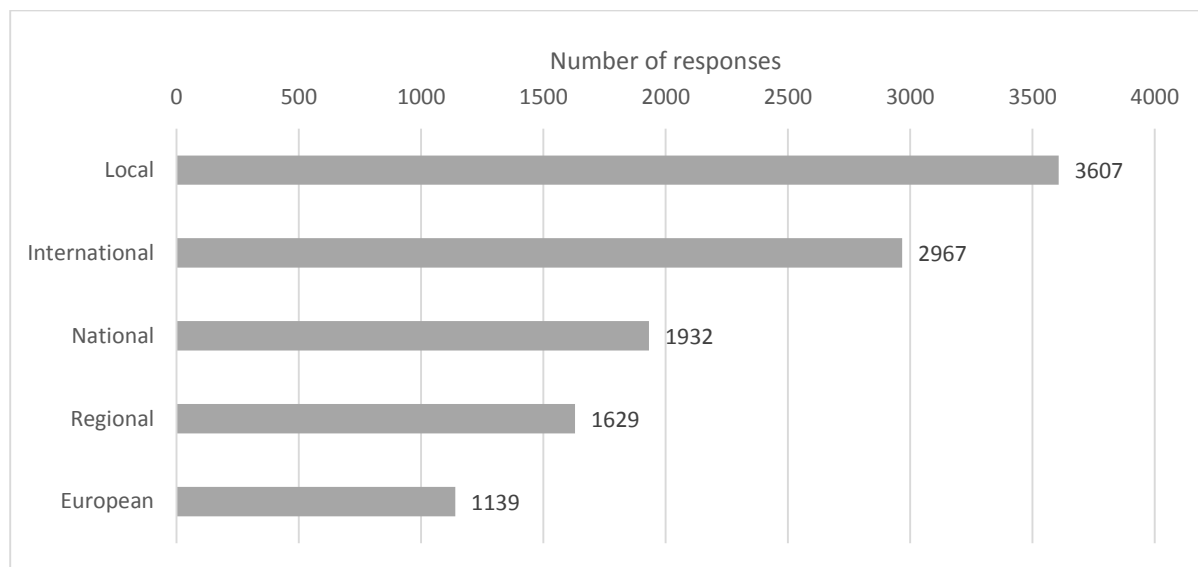
Stakeholder Category	No. of responses
Private individual	83 835
Other	3 778
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	1 194
Research institute/University	960
Government agency	404
Antiques	363
Membership or trade association	318
Repair/restoration	271
Musical instruments (manufacture or retail)	258
Auctions	206
Hunting	163
Carving	162
Export/import operator	151
Inter-governmental organisation (IGO)	114
Enforcement authority	90

3778 respondents chose the category “other”. Among these, 1303 can be grouped as private individuals (with an interest in protecting wildlife, nature and the environment, retired, unemployed or students), 400 as organisations or individuals working for organisations in the private sector (marketing, media & publishing, architecture, design, information technology, finance, law, retail, energy, oil & gas mentioned most frequently), 231 as individuals working in education (including schools, universities, teachers and professors), 180 as organisations or individuals working in health and wellbeing (sports, fitness, medicine, therapy, healthcare), 174 as organisations or individuals working for an environmental, conservation or animal welfare organisation, 137 individuals who recognised themselves as art experts, artists or craftsmen (including sculptors, furniture makers, jewellers, cutlers and antiques restorers), 102 respondents who represented cultural activities (performing arts, literature, theatre, film and television), 63 responses from organisations or individuals working in the tourism sector, 49 responses from musicians (pianists, composers, singers) or individuals working in the music industry (events venues, violin maker, teachers), 41 responses

from academics or scientists (psychologists, zoologists, biologists, sociologists, researchers, archaeologists), 27 responses from religious organisations and 212 responses representing other categories (including non-profit organisations, agriculture, horticulture, public sector, political parties and museums). 951 responses stated not applicable or none.

Among those who responded to question 7, section A “your organisation’s geographical area of activity” the majority indicated they operate at a local (3607 respondents) and/or international level (2967 respondents). A total of 81 559 respondents selected “not applicable” (**Figure 1**).

Figure 1: Answers to question 7, section A of the public consultation "Your organisation's geographical area of activity" in absolute numbers (n = 89 813), Note: respondents could select multiple answers. 81 559 respondents selected “Not applicable”.



3.3 Distribution of responses by country

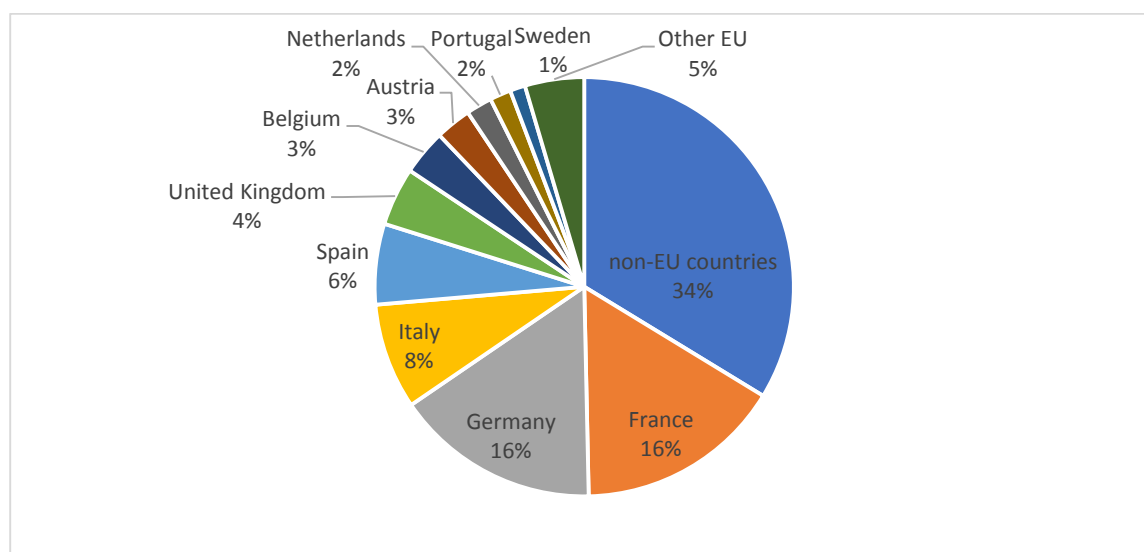
Respondents from all 28 EU Member States participated (Table 2,). The largest groups of respondents who identified themselves from within the EU were from France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. French and German respondents represented 31.8% of the respondents. Answers from respondents who identified themselves as non-EU respondents represented 33.7% of the respondents (30 272) and mainly came from Brazil (5928), Canada (5365) and the United States of America (4436)⁶.

⁶ Respondents were also based in Switzerland (2756), Australia (2480), South Africa (1393), Mexico (1235), New Zealand (947), Argentina (770), Chile (460), India (410), Georgia (364), Norway (360), Colombia (296), Israel (262), Uruguay (204), Venezuela (175), Russian Federation (113), Costa Rica (92), Peru (88), Ukraine (87), Kenya (71), Ecuador (66), Turkey (64), Malaysia (63), China (58), Japan (54), Serbia (54), Singapore (49), Morocco (41), Guatemala (41), Zimbabwe (41), Mauritius (40), Iceland (37), Philippines (33), Sri Lanka (33), Bolivia (30), Algeria (29), Paraguay (28), Dominican Republic (27), Gabon (26), Bosnia & Herzegovina (23), Trinidad and Tobago (22), Jordan (21), Pakistan (21), Egypt (20), Tunisia (20), El Salvador (19), Jamaica (19), Nicaragua (19), South Korea (19) and 98 other countries from outside the EU (584).

Table 2: Answers to question 4, section A "Please state your country of origin" by country, in absolute numbers (n = 89 813)

Country	Number of respondents	Country	Number of respondents
non-EU countries	30 272	Poland	267
France	14 318	Slovenia	261
Germany	14 191	Romania	249
Italy	7 334	Hungary	210
Spain	5 590	Bulgaria	173
United Kingdom	4 036	Croatia	172
Belgium	3 148	Czech Republic	164
Austria	2 484	Luxembourg	147
Netherlands	1 797	Slovakia	142
Portugal	1 463	Estonia	78
Sweden	1 056	Malta	76
Ireland	826	Lithuania	66
Greece	432	Cyprus	56
Denmark	421	Latvia	32
Finland	329	-	

Figure 2: Answers to question 4, section A "Please state your country of origin" by country, as % of total (n = 89 813)



3.4 Outreach by interest groups

Guidance was disseminated by interest groups on how to answer this public consultation. The full detailed analytical report will include a summary of the main trends from these campaigns.

The campaigns are listed below (in alphabetical order):

- **Action for Elephants UK**, grass roots group speaking out and taking action on behalf of elephants (UK) <http://actionforelephantsuk.org/> <http://actionforelephantsuk.org/eu-consultation-on-banning-ivory-trade/>
- **Avaaz** global online activist network <https://secure.avaaz.org/page/en/> [https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/eu ivory consultation 2/](https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/eu_ivory_consultation_2/)
- **Future 4 Wildlife** non-profit organisation focusing on African and European import-export wildlife issues (South Africa) <http://www.future4wildlife.org/> <http://www.future4wildlife.org/guideline-eu-public-consultation-for-ivory-trade/>
- **International Wildlife Bond** not-for-profit charity (UK) <https://iwbond.org/> https://iwbond.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/EU-Consultation_I01.pdf
- **NGOs' joint help sheet** collaboration between Born Free, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Environmental Investigation Agency, Eurogroup for Animals, Humane Society International Europe, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Pro Wildlife, Robin Des Bois and World Conservation Society. Also promoted by Members of European Parliament for Wildlife (available in English, French, Spanish, Italian and German) http://www.ifaw.org/sites/default/files/help-sheet_0.pdf

It should be mentioned that several organisations/websites may have also disseminated the information on the public consultation without any recommended replies and other organisations/websites may have disseminated information to members that is not within the public domain.