


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2003/2078(INI)	Procedure completed
Protection and preservation of big monkeys, illegal trade in bushmeat. Petition 461/2000		
Subject 3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PETI Petitions		23/01/2003
		PSE DE ROSSA Proinsias	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	DEVE Development and Cooperation (Associated committee)		09/07/2003
		PPE-DE CORRIE John Alexander	

Key events			
04/09/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
01/10/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
01/10/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0355/2003	
13/01/2004	Debate in Parliament		
14/01/2004	Decision by Parliament	T5-0019/2004	Summary
14/01/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/2078(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 57; Rules of Procedure EP 227-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PETI/5/20005

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0355/2003	01/10/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0019/2004 OJ C 092 16.04.2004, p. 0127-0302 E	14/01/2004	EP	Summary

Protection and preservation of big monkeys, illegal trade in bushmeat. Petition 461/2000

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Proinsias de ROSSA (PES, IRL) on the protection and conservation of great apes and other species endangered by the illegal trade in bushmeat. The report followed a petition addressed to Parliament which was backed up by 1 900 000 signatures and was part of a campaign by the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) in association with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). The petition drew attention to the trade in bushmeat which is carried on mainly in Africa but is also on the increase in Asia and Latin America, affecting more and more animal species on a vast scale: 23,500 tonnes a year in Sarawak, 64,000 to 67,000 tonnes in Amazonia and 1 million to 5 million tonnes in the Congo basin. This trade is leading to a worrying depletion of wildlife in forests. The problem is caused by a number of factors: population growth, poverty, weak governance, an increase in illegal hunting and the emergence of distribution networks for bushmeat reaching into the EU. The committee's report stressed the need for an EU strategic action plan in this area, as part of a policy to support bio-diversity. According to MEPs, the EU should seek to involve all concerned, starting with local populations but also including governments and the private sector. There should be particular emphasis on strengthening the capabilities of wildlife and nature conservation bodies, including restrictions on high-powered rifles and the ammunition for such weapons. Forestry management should also enable endangered species to survive as part of action plans such as the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Proposal (FLEGT) and take account of agreements such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and recommendations made by the NGO Forests and the European Union Resource Network (FERN). The committee said that 10% of funding available under the European Development Fund (EDF) and the regulation on financial aid for Latin America and Asia (ALA) should be set aside for these matters. The ECOFAC programme (Conservation and Rational Utilisation of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa) and the ABAC programme (Alternatives to Poaching in Central Africa) should be given additional funding. Lastly, legal deterrents and penalties should be envisaged to put an end to this illegal trade for reasons of public health, public safety and protection of endangered species.?

Protection and preservation of big monkeys, illegal trade in bushmeat. Petition 461/2000

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Proinsias DE ROSSA. (Please see the summary dated 01/10/03.) It urged the Commission to integrate an EU strategy and action plan on bushmeat in the context of implementing the EU biodiversity action plan with a clear objective aimed at conserving biodiversity and protecting those species threatened by the bushmeat trade with sufficient funding to implement this objective. Parliament also stressed the links between the hunting and consumption of bushmeat and the level of economic development, and pointed out that the issue of bushmeat hunting, and the threat it poses to endangered species, notably the Great Apes, must be addressed in the context of overall development strategy and poverty alleviation. Communities that traditionally relied on bushmeat as their principal source of animal protein must be assisted to develop the means to purchase other foodstuffs. Commercial networks to supply other meats and fish should be encouraged and assisted. Parliament went on to urge the Commission to support the effective management of protected areas, the development of systems of sustainable use of bushmeat species, and the establishment of alternative livelihoods. These alternatives should focus on improving domestic livestock production, as well as other projects such as ecotourism. EU financial support should be provided for ecotourism in order to encourage local communities to protect endangered species, particularly the Great Apes. In addition, the Commission needs to give special attention in its Strategy to the timber companies which allow, promote and facilitate the use of bushmeat. It should propose legislation to ban the import of products of companies which act illegally and aggravate the bushmeat problem by allowing their workers to hunt for bushmeat or use their transport facilities to transport poached bushmeat. Finally, the Commission should co-operate with countries where bushmeat is found to ensure that all their Country Strategy Papers and National Indicative Programmes pay attention to the bushmeat problem and nature conservation in general. An appropriate proportion of the available EDF and ALA funding must be dedicated to these subjects, and to renegotiate those programmes which lack sufficient attention to these problems with countries where the bushmeat problem is most critical, in particular in Central and West Africa.?