




Procedure file

Basic information			
NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision		2013/0418(NLE)	
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): accession of the EU		Procedure completed	
Subject 3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity 3.70.18 International and regional environment protection measures and agreements			
Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		Appointed 10/07/2014
			 AYUSO Pilar
			Shadow rapporteur
			 BRIANO Renata
	Former committee responsible		
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion
	JURI Legal Affairs		Appointed
			The committee decided not to give an opinion.
Council of the European Union	Former committee for opinion		
	JURI Legal Affairs		
	Committee for opinion on the legal basis		Rapporteur for opinion
	JURI Legal Affairs		Appointed 18/09/2014
			 VOSS Axel
	Council configuration		Meeting
	Environment		3373
			Date
			06/03/2015
	European Commission	Commission DG	
Environment		POTOČNIK Janez	


Key events			
06/12/2013	Preparatory document	COM(2013)0867	Summary
	Legislative proposal published		Summary

03/06/2014		09412/2014	
03/07/2014	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/11/2014	Vote in committee		
17/11/2014	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0036/2014	Summary
15/12/2014	Debate in Parliament		
16/12/2014	Results of vote in Parliament		
16/12/2014	Decision by Parliament	T8-0075/2014	Summary
06/03/2015	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
06/03/2015	End of procedure in Parliament		
19/03/2015	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2013/0418(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 192-p2-a1; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 192-p1; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p6a; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 207
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/8/00277

Documentation gateway

Preparatory document		COM(2013)0867	06/12/2013	EC	Summary
Legislative proposal		09412/2014	03/06/2014	CSL	Summary
Committee draft report		PE537.346	20/10/2014	EP	
Specific opinion		PE539.666	28/10/2014	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0036/2014	17/11/2014	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0075/2014	16/12/2014	EP	Summary

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Final act

[Decision 2015/451](#)
[OJ L 075 19.03.2015, p. 0001](#) Summary

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): accession of the EU

PURPOSE: to approve the accession of the European Union to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to which 178 countries, including all Member States, are a party, is a major international instrument aiming at protecting endangered species of fauna and flora through controls on international trade in specimens of those species.

It covers about 35 000 species, which are listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need. All import, export, re-export and introduction from the sea of species covered by the Convention has to be authorized through a licensing system.

The initial text of the Convention foresaw that CITES membership would be limited to States only. At the second extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the CITES Parties in Gaborone, Botswana, on 30 April 1983, an amendment to the Convention was agreed. This amendment stipulated that the Convention shall be open for accession by regional economic integration organizations constituted by sovereign States which have competence in respect of the negotiation, conclusion and implementation of international agreements in matters transferred to them by their Member States and covered by this Convention.

The Gaborone amendment entered into force on 29 November 2013, after its ratification by two-thirds of the 80 countries that were Parties at the time of adoption of the amendment. The European Union has been to date an observer to CITES and the entry into force of the Gaborone amendment now allows the European Union to become a Party to CITES.

CONTENT: the proposal for the Council Decision aims at approving the accession of the European Union to CITES.

The matters covered by CITES relate to areas (protection of the environment, trade, internal market, customs) which are subject to Union law. CITES provisions have been implemented in a harmonized manner at EU level since 1984 and are now regulated through Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 and various Commission Regulations.

The accession of the European Union to CITES is a logical and necessary step to ensure that the European Union is fully able to pursue its objectives under its environmental policy.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: CITES, like other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) administered by UNEP, is financed through assessed contributions paid by all Parties and that are based on the UN Scale of Assessment adopted every three years by the General Assembly.

It is expected that for CITES, the Conference of Parties will decide that, following the accession of the European Union to CITES, the EU should pay 2.5% of the total amount of the CITES Trust fund annually.

The next CoP will only meet in 2016 but the EU will be expected to make a contribution in 2014 and 2015 (approximately EUR 112 000, 2.5% of the total amount of the CITES Trust fund for 2015), in line with the practice that Parties should contribute as soon as they accede.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): accession of the EU

PURPOSE: to approve the Accession of the European Union to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent.

CONTEXT: the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to which 178 countries, including all Member States, are a party, is a major international environmental instrument aiming to protect endangered species of fauna and flora through controls on international trade in specimens of those species.

The Gaborone amendment to the Convention, adopted by a special Conference of the Parties in Gaborone, Botswana, in 1983, modified Article XXI of the Convention so that access to the Convention, previously limited to States, was opened to regional economic integration organisations constituted by sovereign States having competence in respect of the negotiation, conclusion and implementation of international agreements in matters transferred to them by their Member States and covered by the Convention. The Gaborone amendment to the Convention entered into force on 29 November 2013.

The matters covered by the Convention relate essentially to the protection of the environment. The provisions of the Convention have been implemented uniformly in all Member States since 1 January 1984.

Accession to the Convention by the Union will enable it to play a role in the work of the Convention and will legally bind the Union to implement and enforce the Convention in matters falling within its competence. It will create formal responsibilities for the Union so as to make the Union a Party accountable to other Parties.

The accession of the Union to the Convention will not affect the way in which the positions for the CITES Conference of the Parties are agreed by the Union and its Member States, within the fields of their respective competences, in accordance with the Treaties.

The European Union should therefore accede to the Convention,

CONTENT: with this Decision proposal, the Council is invited to approve in the name of the European Union, approve the Accession of the European Union to CITES.

For the material content of the Protocol, see the summary of the Commissions initial legislative proposal dated 06/12/2013.

The accession of the Union to the Convention will have no impact on the way in which the positions for the CITES Conference of the Parties are agreed by the Union and its Member States, within the fields of their respective competences.

The positions of the Union and its Member States for the CITES Conference of the Parties will be expressed in line with relevant practice in the area of multilateral environmental agreements, within the field of their respective competences, in accordance with the Treaties.

Declaration: the Decision also contains an Annex that declares the European Union, is competent for entering into international agreements, and for implementing the obligations resulting therefrom, which contribute to the pursuit of the following objectives:

- preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment;
- protecting human health;
- prudent and rational utilisation of natural resources;
- promoting measures at international level to deal with regional or worldwide environmental problems, including climate change.

Finally, the Declaration clarifies that the European Union is responsible for the performance of those obligations resulting from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora which are covered by European Union legislation in force.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): accession of the EU

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety adopted the report by Pilar AYUSO (EPP, ES) on the draft Council decision concerning the accession of the European Union to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Accession of the European Union to CITES will enable the EU to be adequately represented at CITES meetings and to play a full role in the work of the Convention, in line with the Treaties and established practices for external representation. It will enable the Commission, on behalf of the European Union, to lead negotiations and to be a catalyst in achieving a balanced compromise between the 28 Member States positions. When becoming a Party to the CITES, the European Union will be granted formal responsibilities and become accountable to other Parties for the implementation and enforcement of the Convention.

Accession to CITES by the European Union will render the legal status of the European Union in the CITES more transparent vis-à-vis third parties to the Convention. It is a logical and necessary step to ensure that the European Union is fully able to pursue its objectives under its environmental policy.

Consequently, Members recommended the European Parliament to give its consent to the accession of the EU to the Convention.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): accession of the EU

The European Parliament adopted by 641 votes to 60, with 1 abstention, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision concerning the accession of the European Union to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Parliament gave its consent to accession to the Convention.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): accession of the EU

PURPOSE: to approve the accession of the European Union to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision (EU) 2015/451 concerning the accession of the European Union to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

CONTENT: under this Council decision, the accession of the European Union to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is hereby approved on behalf of the European Union.

The President of the Council is hereby authorised to designate the person empowered to deposit, on behalf of the Union, the instrument of accession in order to express the consent of the Union to be bound by the Convention.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to which 178 countries, including all Member States, are a party, is a major international environmental instrument aiming to protect endangered species of fauna and flora through controls on international trade in specimens of those species. The matters covered by the Convention relate essentially to the protection of the environment.

Accession to the Convention by the Union will enable it to play a role in the work of the Convention and will legally bind the Union to implement and enforce the Convention in matters falling within its competence.

The European Union declared that, in accordance with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 192(1) thereof, it is competent for entering into international agreements, and for implementing the obligations resulting therefrom, which contribute to the pursuit of the following objectives:

- preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment;
- protecting human health;
- prudent and rational utilisation of natural resources;
- promoting measures at international level to deal with regional or worldwide environmental problems, including climate change.

The EU declared that it is responsible for the performance of those obligations resulting from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora which are covered by European Union legislation in force. The exercise of European Union competence is, by its nature, subject to continuous development.