

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2016/2054(INI)	Procedure completed
EU common commercial policy in the context of wildlife sustainability imperatives		
Subject		
3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity		
6.20 Common commercial policy in general		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 International Trade	 MCCLARKIN Emma	15/02/2016
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 FJELLNER Christofer	
		 MARTIN David	
		 TAKKULA Hannu	
		 JADOT Yannick	
		 BEGHIN Tiziana	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Trade	MALMSTRÖM Cecilia	

Key events			
28/04/2016	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/01/2017	Vote in committee		
30/01/2017	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0012/2017	Summary
02/03/2017	Results of vote in Parliament		
02/03/2017	Debate in Parliament		
02/03/2017	Decision by Parliament	T8-0064/2017	Summary

02/03/2017	End of procedure in Parliament		
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Technical information	
Procedure reference	2016/2054(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/8/06284

Documentation gateway					
Committee draft report		PE592.341	08/11/2016	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE595.641	12/12/2016	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0012/2017	30/01/2017	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0064/2017	02/03/2017	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2017)348	29/06/2017	EC	

EU common commercial policy in the context of wildlife sustainability imperatives

The Committee on International Trade adopted the own-initiative report by Emma McCLARKIN (ECR, UK) on EU Common Commercial Policy in the context of wildlife sustainability imperatives.

The world is facing an unprecedented surge in wildlife trafficking. According to estimates, the illegal trade in wild flora and fauna is the fourth most profitable area of criminal activity, with an estimated turnover of as much as EUR 20 billion.

Members welcomed the EU action plan against wildlife trafficking and stated that the EU must lead efforts in tackling not only supply-side issues, including development issues on the ground in third countries, but also demand for illegal products in domestic markets, including online platforms.

The report made the following recommendations:

- on trade policy, the Union should adopt an approach that not only prioritises the issue of combating the illegal wildlife trade but includes in all future agreements provisions aimed at: (i) its reduction and ultimate elimination; along with (ii) robust and effective complementary measures, with particular regard to training, prevention and the application of sanctions in the field of forest management, health and customs;
- EU trade policy should not prevent the EU or its trading partners from taking decisions that are necessary for the protection of wildlife and natural resources, provided that such measures continue to be in pursuit of legitimate public policy objectives and do not represent arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination;
- given that there is no one size fits all solution to global wildlife sustainability and combating the illegal trade, it is necessary to ensure full flexibility and to share information, data and best practice, in order to facilitate dialogue with a view to enhanced cooperation, bearing in mind the cross-border nature of this type of infringement;
- Member States should consider policy solutions that would allow for the elimination of all remaining legal loopholes that could facilitate the laundering of illegally sourced wildlife and wildlife products; exhaustive monitoring should be carried out in this connection;
- the EU should consider a possible ban at European level of trade, export or re-export within and outside the EU of elephant ivory, in a manner compliant with WTO law;
- sufficient resources should be committed for policies and measures designed to meet the EUs objectives in terms of combating the illegal wildlife trade, which includes resources for third countries in terms of capacity-building;
- the Commission and the Member States should continue to work with all actors concerned to ensure an integrated approach that acts to curtail demand and raise awareness in demand markets;
- more should be done to ensure that the illegal criminal networks and syndicates active in illegal wildlife trade are targeted for disruption, elimination and prosecution, and that Member States should ensure that the punishments and sentences reserved for wildlife crime are both proportionate and dissuasive and in line with commitments, as defined in the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime;
- the EU should explore, within the scope of the WTO framework, how global trade and environmental regimes can better support each other;
- lastly, further opportunities for cooperation between the WTO and CITES should be explored, in particular in terms of offering technical assistance and capacity building on trade and environment matters to officials from developing countries.

EU common commercial policy in the context of wildlife sustainability imperatives

The European Parliament adopted by 579 votes to 15, with 20 abstentions, a resolution on EU Common Commercial Policy in the context of wildlife sustainability imperatives.

The world is facing an unprecedented surge in wildlife trafficking. According to estimates, the illegal trade in wild flora and fauna is the fourth most profitable area of criminal activity, with an estimated turnover of as much as EUR 20 billion.

Parliament welcomed the EU action plan against wildlife trafficking and stated that the EU must lead efforts in tackling not only supply-side issues, including development issues on the ground in third countries, but also demand for illegal products in domestic markets, including online platforms.

Parliament called on the EU consider a possible ban at European level of trade, export or re-export within and outside the EU of elephant ivory , including pre-Convention ivory, in a manner compliant with WTO law.

It also made the following recommendations:

- ensuring the private sectors involvement in the fight against wildlife trafficking, including the engagement of online marketplaces and social media;
- strengthening the customs dimension of the European Unions Action Plan and promoting work on information sharing and capacity building, including specific training for customs officers;
- supporting the approach of including anti-corruption provisions in future trade agreements as well as those aimed at tackling wildlife trafficking;
- eliminating all remaining legal loopholes that could facilitate the laundering of illegally sourced wildlife and wildlife products;
- allocating sufficient resources should be committed for policies and measures designed to meet the EUs objectives in terms of combating the illegal wildlife trade, which includes resources for third countries in terms of capacity-building;
- reinforcing cooperation with all actors concerned to ensure an integrated approach that acts to curtail demand and raise awareness in demand markets;
- ensuring that the illegal criminal networks and syndicates active in illegal wildlife trade are targeted for disruption, elimination and prosecution.

Parliament underlined that the common commercial policy should promote binding corporate social responsibility standards, given that corporate social responsibility standards are of particular importance within transport networks.