

“On the way to CITES CoP20: Acknowledging CITES role as an international trade convention securing a sustainable management of wildlife resources”



© CITES, Facebook page

Thursday 25th September 2025 at 08:30 – 10:30 CEST

Organised at the European Parliament, Brussels (Room ASP 3H1)

As preparations intensify for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES COP 20), the European Parliament is currently working on its draft motion for a resolution that will help shape the EU's position at this critical international meeting.

This event of the [MEP Group on 'Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development'](#) will provide a timely opportunity to reflect on the EU's strategic objectives, aiming at supporting a coherent and forward-looking EU approach by bringing together EU institutions, Member States, and relevant stakeholders ahead of CITES COP 20. It will highlight the importance of reaffirming CITES as a convention centred on regulating legal, sustainable, and traceable trade in wildlife, while ensuring that such trade does not threaten their survival.

Acknowledging CITES' role and importance as an international trade convention will be central to this event's discussion, while stressing the importance of the EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking. This action plan provides a comprehensive blueprint for tackling illegal trade through stronger enforcement, international cooperation, and demand reduction – all within the boundaries of CITES' trade-based approach. By focusing on these priorities and securing science-based decision making, the EU can lead with credibility and clarity in the run-up to COP 20.



FINAL AGENDA

*Event moderated by **Ilias Grampas**, Deputy Director, EBCD, Secretariat of the MEP Group on 'Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development'*

08:30 – 08:40: Welcome participants

08:40 – 08:50: Welcome remarks by **MEP Cesar Luena & MEP Manuela Ripa**

08:50 – 08:55: Introduction by **Despina Symons Pirovalidou**, Director, EBCD

08:55 – 09:35: Interventions by:

- **Nicola Okes**, Senior Project Manager, TRAFFIC
- **Karen Gaynor**, Scientific Support Officer, CITES Secretariat – online
- **Kim Friedman**, Senior Fishery Resources Officer, FAO – online
- **Svein A. Fosså**, President, European Pet Organization (EPO)
- **Nicolas Galudec**, Senior Policy Advisor, UNEP Brussels Office
- **Dr. Dan Challender**, Senior Research Fellow, University of Oxford & Member of the Sustainable Use and Livelihoods (SULI) Specialist Group, IUCN – online

09:35 – 10:05: Q&A session with the audience

10:05 – 10:15: Intervention by **Cristina de Avila**, Head of Unit on “Global Environmental Cooperation and Multilateralism” (DG ENV F3), European Commission

10:15 – 10:20: Closing remarks by **MEP Michal Wiezik**