



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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**Council agrees EU position for CITES conference on
endangered species
(March 2010)**

The Council today adopted the EU position on proposals submitted to the 15th conference of the parties to the Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora (CITES), to take place in Doha, Qatar, from 13 to 25 March 2010.

The decision aims to preserve biodiversity by restricting international commerce in endangered species in the framework of CITES. The EU position on the proposed amendments of CITES is based on the conservation status of the species in question. It supports greater focus on the effective enforcement of CITES controls in order to reduce poaching and illegal trade.

In particular, the EU is concerned by the poor conservation status of *atlantic bluefin tuna*, for which it supports a ban on international trade, provided that a number of conditions are fulfilled in order to ensure a viable future for fishermen affected by the new measures.

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The EU remains opposed to a resumption of commercial *ivory trade* unless adequate mechanisms ensure that this will not increase the illegal killing of *elephants*. The EU encourages all elephant range states to cooperate in the conservation and management of the species.

Moreover, it considers that climate change and the habitat loss resulting from reduced sea ice constitute the main threat affecting *polar bears*. In this light, measures to address climate change, as proposed by the EU in ongoing international negotiations, will be essential and more appropriate in limiting the decline of the population of the species.

The EU proposes that tighter controls of commerce in *corals* enter into force with a delay of 18 months while it will consider how to alleviate possible consequences on artisans within the EU.

