



## EU Enforcement Group on CITES

### **Region and countries of the network**

Europe; European Union and its 28 Member States. In addition, Switzerland and EU candidate countries are regularly invited to attend the meetings as observers.

### **Authorities involved**

CITES Management and Enforcement Authorities, Customs, Police, Environmental Inspectorates, Nature Conservation Agencies, Wildlife inspectorates, Euro-pol, Eurojust, Interpol, World Customs Organization and the CITES Secretariat are invited regularly.

*Formal network established according to Art. 14 para 3 Regulation EC No. 338/97*

### **Brief description**

The Enforcement Group is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the provisions laid down in the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 of 9 December 1996 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein and Commission Regulation (EC) No 865/2006. The enforcement group shall examine any technical question relating to the enforcement of these regulations raised by the chairman, either on his own initiative or at the request of the members of the group or the committee. Formal meetings of the group take place twice a year. The Group will also play an important role in the implementation of the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking.

### **(Reporting) structure / decision-making process**

Decisions are taken at the meetings of the Enforcement group which meets twice a year. The decisions are reported to EU CITES Management Committee, established under Art. 18 Regulation EC No. 338/97 to support the EU Commission in the implementation of the Wildlife Trade regulations.

### **Key activities**

Its task is to monitor enforcement policy and practice in the EU Member States and make recommendations to improve the enforcement of wildlife trade legislation. It also catalyses the exchange of information, experience and expertise on wildlife trade control related topics between the Member

### **Key activities (continued)**

States (trends in illegal trade, significant seizures and investigations), including sharing of intelligence information and establishing and maintaining databases. Reports of the findings of investigations/operations carried out by the member States are shared during the meetings, being accessible to all CITES Authorities of the member States, the Commission and other partners through restricted access.

In addition subgroups have been established to handle identified important topics such as illegal trade in birds, reptiles, ivory, timber or eels but also questions related to forensic and marking. Dedicated sessions can address issues like engagement with relevant business sectors or transport sector, cooperation with specifically important third countries.

### **Key partners in the region**

TRAFFIC Europe, relevant agencies and organizations such as Europol, Eurojust, Interpol, WCO, UNODC, neighboring countries like Switzerland, Norway, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### **Website and other useful links**

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/eg\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/eg_en.htm)

Information is exchanged on a specific access restricted portal managed by the European Commission.

In addition EU TWIX (<http://www.eu-twix.org/>) which is a tool to facilitate information exchange on illegal wildlife trade in the European Union can be used to distribute information quickly between registered users. The EU-TWIX website and database are only accessible for officials of law enforcement authorities (e.g. Customs, Police and other governmental agencies such as environmental inspection services, national crime units, etc. involved in wildlife trade controls) and CITES Management Authorities of the 28 EU Members States.

### **Network focal points**

Primary focal point: Matthias Leonhard Maier, European Commission  
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