

EU PROCEDURES AND PLANNING FOR PROPOSALS TO THE CITES CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES FROM MEMBER STATES¹

The need to respect exclusive Union competence in the area of trade in wildlife clearly calls for advanced co-ordination before proposals are put to the Conference of the Parties. The agreed modus operandi is as follows:

1. Any Member State wishing to make a proposal to amend the appendices or a proposal related to the interpretation and implementation of the Convention should submit the text to the Commission at least **250 days** before the CoP.
2. The Commission will transmit the proposals received to the Committee on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora accompanied, where appropriate, by an opinion of the Commission.
3. If the Committee delivers a favourable opinion, the proposal shall be submitted to the CITES Secretariat as a joint proposal of the Member States acting in the interest of the European Union.
4. Accession countries are advised to participate in the procedure on a voluntary basis in order to ensure that any proposals they submit will have Union support.

Attached to this page is an outline timetable for preparations for CITES CoP 16 in 2013.

¹ Agreed at COM 56 (10 October 2011); meeting dates revised January 2012

OUTLINE TIMETABLE OF PREPARATIONS FOR CITES CoP 16 (3 – 15 March 2013)

2012

<i>January 2012</i>	<i>Submission of documents to AC 26 and PC 20</i>
13 February 2012	COM 58
23 February 2012	SRG 59
<i>15 – 30 March 2012</i>	<i>AC 26, joint session, PC 20 (Geneva / Dublin)</i>
18 – 19 April 2012	EG 24
<i>7 April 2012</i>	<i>Deadline to submit to the CITES Secretariat for consideration at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES</i> <i>a) proposals to amend Appendix I or II that concern a species or a population of a species that occurs partly or totally outside of the territory under its jurisdiction, without prior consultation with the other range States (see Resolution Conf. 8.21 on Consultation with range States on proposals to amend Appendices I and II); and</i> <i>b) amendment proposals made pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15), on Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II</i>
<i>May 2012</i>	<i>Submission of documents to SC 62</i>
7 June 2012	SRG 60
12 June 2012	Meeting with stakeholders on SC 62
26 June 2012	250 days before the CoP = last date for submission by Member States to the Commission of draft proposals related to the amendment of the appendices or the interpretation and implementation of the Convention
2 July 2012	COM 59 (SC preparation)
June / July 2012	Prepare Commission Staff Working Paper
<i>23 – 27 July 2012</i>	<i>SC 62 (Geneva, Switzerland)</i>
11 September 2012	SRG 61

12 September 2012	COM 60 (discussion of Cion Staff Working Paper on EU proposals)
<i>4 October 2012</i>	<i>Last day for submission of resolutions and amendments to the CITES Secretariat = 150 days before</i> Submission by the Presidency (in conjunction with MS) to the CITES Secretariat of <u>Union proposals</u> to amend the appendices or alter the interpretation and implementation of the Convention.
29 - 30 October 2012	EG 25
October – November 2012	Preparation of draft Commission proposal for a Council Decision on a common EU position
Oct / Nov	Meeting with Member States as Experts' Group to consider first draft of Commission proposal for a Council Decision on a common EU position
Oct / Nov	Consultation meeting with interested EU NGOs
November 2012	Finalisation of draft Commission proposal for a Council Decision
7 December 2012	SRG 62
10 December 2012	COM 61
December 2012	Adoption by Commission of proposal for a Council Decision on a common EU position

2013

January 2013 onwards	Discussion of Commission proposal for a Council Decision in Council WPIEI (Presidency: Ireland)
Before 3 March 2013	Adoption of Council Decision by an appropriate Council following consideration in COREPER I
<i>3 – 15 March 2013</i>	<i>CoP 16 (Thailand)</i>