

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Fifty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 6-10 July 2009

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Exemptions and special trade provisions

PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee Working Group on Personal and Household Effects (China).

Developments

2. Electronic discussions were held during the second half of 2008 on an initial set of questions developed by the Chair. These questions related to the Working Group's terms of reference contained in Decision 14.64 of the Conference of the Parties. Several members provided thoughtful comments in response to the questions, which reflected various points of view.
3. Further progress by the Working Group was slowed when the Chair (Mr CS Cheung) announced in February 2009 that he would soon be retiring from government service as head of the CITES Management Authority for Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China. He advised that he had submitted his resignation to the Chair of the Standing Committee and proposed that his colleague Mr Alfred KC Wong of Hong Kong replace him.
4. Pending an anticipated meeting among available Working Group members in the margins of the present meeting, members tentatively agreed to Mr Wong taking over the duties of Chair. They expressed their appreciation to Mr CS Cheung for the wisdom and guidance that he had provided as Chair of the Working Group and said that it had been a pleasure working with him.
5. Mr Wong is preparing to initiate another round of electronic discussions on the Working Group's terms of reference, which is aimed at generating new thoughts and identifying common ground among members. In his oral report to the Standing Committee on this matter, he will provide the results of those electronic discussions and any face-to-face discussions that might be held by Working Group members in the margins of the present meeting.
6. To date, no issue has arisen on which the Working Group might need clarification or advice from the Standing Committee. The Secretariat has regularly provided the Chair of the Working Group with relevant background information, particularly details about queries that it has received which directly or indirectly concern CITES specimens which are personal or household effects.

Recommendations

7. As required in Decision 14.64, the Working Group will develop a report for submission to and consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting. The Working Group intends to provide an electronic version of the draft report to Standing Committee members for any comments before a final version of the report is prepared and submitted to the Secretariat.