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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

LETTER FROM GERMANY TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
REGARDING THE MIKE BASELINE DATA

1. The attached document has been submitted by Germany on behalf of the Member States of the European Community.
2. The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.



Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit, N II 1,
Postfach 12 06 29, 53048 Bonn

Mr Christian Maquieira
Chairman of the Standing Committee
CITES

Jochen Flasbarth
- Ministerialdirektor -
Leiter der Abteilung
Naturschutz und
Nachhaltige Naturnutzung

HAUSANSCHRIFT
Robert-Schuman-Platz 3
53175 Bonn

POSTANSCHRIFT
Postfach 12 06 29, 53048 Bonn

TEL +49 - (0) 22899 - 305 - 2600
FAX +49 - (0) 22899 - 305 - 2694

jochen.flasbarth@bmu.bund.de
www.bmu.de

The Hague, 03. June 2007

Dear Chairman

At the 55th meeting of the Standing Committee the European Community considered that the conditions laid down in decision taken at the 12th Conference of Parties concerning the MIKE base-line data had been fulfilled and was therefore able to support the recommendation contained in paragraph 7 in doc 10.2. We would, however, like to formally place on record our grave concerns as regards the financial sustainability of MIKE Asia and the impact this might have on the future credibility of the process and work undertaken to date.

The value of the MIKE system is clear: we would not have been able to confirm that the conditions for the one off sale of ivory had been met had those data not been available. Parties now need to ensure that MIKE and its constituent parts continue to operate. In particular, this includes ensuring that there is adequate funding for MIKE Asia. The EC has ensured that there is adequate financing for MIKE Africa until 2011. This needs to be matched by others for MIKE Asia so that the monitoring of the impact of the one off sale on both populations can take place. The EC is ready to play a constructive role on discussions on future long term financing of the overall MIKE programme.



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The EC sincerely hopes that there will be significant progress on this matter during the 14th Conference of the Parties and that Parties will work together to resolve matters.

Yours sincerely

CC Ms, Gerda Verburg, Minister for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Government of the Netherlands,
Willem Wijnstekers, Secretary General, CITES Secretariat