

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



Seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Lyon (France), 7 - 11 March 2022

INFORMATION ON THE NEW MEASURES ON IVORY TRADE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

This document is submitted by the European Union and its Member States in relation to agenda item 39 on Closure of domestic ivory markets.\*

On 29/04/2021, in response to [Notification 2021/005](#), the EU informed the CITES Secretariat about its intention to adopt additional measures targeting the import and re-export of ivory as well as the EU internal market as part of its commitment under the [EU's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#).

On 16/12/2021, the European Commission adopted revised [Guidance on the EU regime governing ivory trade](#) which significantly restricts the trade in raw and worked ivory in the EU. The Guidance entered into force on 19/01/22, together with other changes made to relevant EU legislation (Commission Regulation 865/2006). The new rules aim to ensure that the EU's domestic market does not contribute to elephant poaching or ivory trafficking anywhere in the world, in line with CITES Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18).

The revised Guidance on ivory trade effectively puts an end to internal EU trade in raw ivory, with a very narrow exception for repairs of musical instruments and antiques which require raw ivory. The latter must be legally obtained from existing stocks and transactions are subject to close scrutiny by the competent authorities.

The new measures also ban internal EU trade in worked ivory items, except for antiques produced before 1947 and musical instruments containing ivory obtained before 1975. The import and re-export of worked ivory items are also no longer permitted, except for pre-1975 musical instruments and sales of pre-1947 antiques to museums.

To ensure that the above exceptions cannot be misused, permits or certificates issued by the EU Member States CITES authorities are required for any of the few remaining transactions, including for trade within the EU or individual Member States.

The implementation of these new rules are a priority for the EU and its Member States' enforcement agencies, as part of their firm commitment to combating elephant poaching and ivory trafficking globally. This ambition is a key element of the [EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking](#) and the EU's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

---

\* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author*