

AMENDMENT TO APPENDIX I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A Proposal

To replace

- (i) Annotations #1b), #2b), #4b), #6b) and #7b) with:  
"seedlings or tissue cultures obtained in vitro in sterile culture media, either liquid or solid, transported in containers commonly used for this type of cultures, with different shapes and made of different materials",
- (ii) Annotation 0504 with:  
"Seedlings or tissue cultures obtained in vitro in sterile culture media, either liquid or solid, transported in containers commonly used for this type of cultures, with different shapes and made of different materials."

B Proponent

The Federal Republic of Germany

C Supporting Statement

1. Taxonomy

This proposal relates to the majority of plant taxa covered by the CITES Appendices:

Appendix I	Appendix II
2 orchid genera	7 families
9 orchid species	10 genera
	36 species

2. Explanation

At the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties an amendment proposal was adopted to exempt all flasked seedlings of Appendix II species from CITES controls. At the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties it was agreed that this exemption should also apply to hybrids of species listed in Appendix I and, on certain conditions, also to species of orchids listed in Appendix I.

Seedling and tissue cultures are, by the nature of the propagation technique, always artificially propagated. The control of consignments of tissue or seedling cultures in sterile flasks or other sterile containers, therefore, is not relevant to the protection of natural plant populations.

Seedling cultures are not only traded in narrow-necked flasks with agar medium but increasingly in sterile plastic containers with or without culture media. The exemption should be expanded to cover all consignments of seedlings or tissue cultures obtained in vitro in sterile culture media. The proposed wording also clarifies the need for tissue cultures to be shipped under similar conditions to qualify for this exemption.

3. Trade data

Tissue cultures and seedling cultures in sterile containers, especially of orchids, are traded worldwide.

