

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



Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September – 5 October 2016

Plenary

Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

This document has been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussions in a Working group of Annex 2 of document CoP17 Doc.4.1 (Rev. 1). The Working Group was chaired by the Chair of the Standing Committee, Øystein Størkesen and the following Parties attended: Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, EU, Germany, Japan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Sweden, Uganda and the United States of America.

The Working Group reached agreement on the adoption of rules of procedure for CoP17 and recommends that the Conference of the Parties:

1. Adopts the Rules of Procedure with the amendments proposed contained in Annex 2 of document CoP17 Doc 4.1 (Rev. 1) and with the changes recorded in Annex 1 to the present document;
2. Takes note of the Statement made the European Union, contained in Annex 2 and requests that it be included in the summary record;
3. Adopts the decision on the review of Rules of Procedure, contained in Annex 3 to the present document.

The following changes were made to the draft Rules of Procedure, as contained in the Annex 2 of document CoP17 Doc. 4.1 (Rev.1):

1. In Rule 4, paragraph 3, end the paragraph with the language in 3 b) by deleting unless it has already been registered by the Secretariat.
2. In Rule 7, paragraph 3, in the second sentence, delete as appropriate and where possible
3. In Rule 9, replace the text in the square brackets and the square brackets with For the purposes of calculating the quorum, a regional economic integration organization shall not be counted in addition to its Member States.
4. In Rule 26, paragraph 1, replace except as provided for in paragraph 3 of this Rule with except as provided for in the Convention.
5. In Rule 26, delete paragraphs 3 and 4.
6. In Rule 28, delete the including amendments of these Rules,
7. In Rule 32, delete two-thirds majority decision of the Representatives present and voting and replace with by a decision of the Conference.

Statement by the EU to CoP17 in relation to Agenda item 4.1.

1. The EU attends this COP together with the 28 Member States of the Union who are all present and accredited at this meeting. We acknowledge that this being the first time a REIO joins the Convention, there are questions by other Parties how this works in practice.
2. We have already shared information documents ahead of CoP 17 on the practical implications of the EU's accession and on the distribution of the exercise of voting rights between the EU and the Member States.
3. From this information document you can see on which agenda point the EU will exercise its right to vote and on which ones the 28 Member States will press the buttons. Where the EU will vote it does so in line with Article XXI of the Convention which says clearly that "In the fields of their competence, regional economic integration organizations shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their Member States which are Parties to the Convention. Such organizations shall not exercise their right to vote if their Member States exercise theirs, and vice versa."
4. The 28 EU Member States will remain present during the entire CoP 17 and it is understood that the EU Member States will attend each session of the CoP and it is understood that no Party will challenge the EU's exercise of its right to vote at CoP17.

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Rules of Procedure

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 17.X With the support of the Secretariat, the Standing Committee shall review the Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties, including, but not limited to, rules 4, 5, 9, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 32*; and propose amendments, as appropriate, at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties with a view to ensuring the effective conduct of meetings.

* *This refers to the rule numbers in Annex 2 of document CoP17 Doc. 4.1 (Rev. 1).*