

EU Enforcement Group on CITES

Region and countries of the network

Europe; European Union and 28 Member States in alphabetical order: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom. In addition neighboring countries like e.g. Switzerland and Serbia will be invited to join meetings.

Authorities involved

CITES Management and Enforcement Authorities, Customs, Police, Environmental Inspectorates, Nature Conservation Agencies, Wildlife inspectorates, Europol, Eurojust, Interpol, World Customs Organization and the CITES Secretariat are invited regularly.

Brief description

Formal network established according to Art. 14 para 3 Regulation EC No. 338/97

The Enforcement Group is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the provisions of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations No. 338/97 and 865/2006. The enforcement group shall examine any technical question relating to the enforcement of these regulations raised by the chairman, either on his own initiative or at the request of the members of the group or the committee. Formal meetings of the group take place twice a year. The Group will also play an important role in the implementation of the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking.

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

Decisions will be taken at regular meetings of the group twice a year and the decisions will be reported to Management Committee which was established under Art. 18 Regulation EC No. 338/97 to support the EU Commission in the implementation of the Wildlife Trade regulations.

Key activities

The task of the group is to monitor enforcement policy and practice in the EU Member States and make recommendations to improve the enforcement of wildlife trade legislation. It also catalyses the exchange of information, experience and expertise on wildlife trade control related topics between the Member States (trends in illegal trade, significant seizures and investigations), including sharing of intelligence information and establishing and maintaining databases. In addition subgroups can be established to handle identified important topics such as illegal trade in birds or trade in eels. Dedicated sessions can address issues like engagement with relevant business sectors, cooperation with specifically important third countries etc.

Key partners in the region

TRAFFIC Europe, relevant agencies and organisations such as Europol, Eurojust, Interpol, WCO, UNODC, neighboring countries like Switzerland, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina etc.

Website and other useful links

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/eg_en.htm

Information is exchanged on a specific access restricted webpage managed by the EU Commission. In addition EU TWIX (<http://www.eu-twix.org/>) which is a tool to facilitate information exchange on illegal wildlife trade in the European Union can be used to distribute information quickly between registered users. The EU-TWIX website and database are only accessible for officials of law enforcement authorities (e.g. Customs, Police and other governmental agencies such as environmental inspection services, national crime units, etc. involved in wildlife trade controls) and CITES Management Authorities of the 28 EU Members States.
etc.

Network focal points

Gael de Rotalier (*primary*) - gael.de-rotalier@ec.europa.eu

Franz Böhmer - franz.boehmer@bfn.de