

From: SOBIECH Agata Agata.SOBIECH@ec.europa.eu 

Subject: EU reply to notification 2023/028

Date: 17 April 2023 at 22:27

To: info@cites.org

Cc: thea.carroll@un.org, RODRIGUEZ ROMERO Jorge Jorge.RODRIGUEZ-ROMERO@ec.europa.eu, FUEHRMANN Heidi Heidi.Fuehrmann@ec.europa.eu, MIRON Nina Claudia Nina-Claudia.MIRON@ec.europa.eu, SOTO-LARGO MERONO Barbara Barbara.SOTO-LARGO-MERONO@ec.europa.eu, ENV-CITES@ec.europa.eu

SA

Dear colleagues

Please find attached the EU's reply to notification 2023/028.

Best regards,

Agata

Agata SOBIECH

Team Leader – CITES and wildlife trafficking



European Commission

DG Environment

Unit ENV F.3 – Global Environmental Cooperation and Multilateralism

+32 2 29 80860

agata.sobiech@ec.europa.eu



EU reply 2023 -
028 final.docx

European Union's reply to notification 2023/028

In response to the notification 2023/028 please see below a report on the relevant legislation and other measures at the EU level. Please note that the majority of the matters covered by the notification are under the competence of the EU Member States that will report separately. We also note that many of the measures mentioned in the notification are governed by the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement)¹ and covered by the recommendations of the relevant standard setting body, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), in collaboration with other relevant international organisations. We consider it very important to build as far as possible on the existing structures for cooperation and solutions developed by WOAH as well as World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and others, either under the formal One Health umbrella or closely following it².

Relevant EU legislation:

At EU level, several public and animal health rules, based on science⁽³⁾ and on international standards⁽⁴⁾ are in place, to prevent the incursion and spread of animal diseases and zoonoses through the movements of live kept animals, including captive wild animals and products derived from them. Thus, the [EU Animal Health Law](#)⁽⁵⁾ provides for an adequate legal framework, which allows a systematic One Health approach and rapid reaction to existing or emerging health problems in or arising from both kept and wild animals. Numerous delegated and implementing acts⁽⁶⁾ include detailed provisions including on roles, obligations, responsibilities, regulatory measures, sanitary requirements etc. for competent authorities, operators, or other stakeholders and concerning traded animals and products. In addition, EU Member States may regulate the entry from third countries of animal species, where rules concerning them are not fully harmonised at the EU level from the animal and public health point of view.

Other aspects of zoonotic disease emergence associated with wildlife, especially domestic aspects, are under the responsibility of the EU Member States.

With regard to monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, the EU has adopted a [Directive 2003/99/EC](#),⁽⁷⁾ which covers in animals and food (not in humans):

¹ [WTO | Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures - text of the agreement](#)

² <https://www.oie.int/en/for-the-media/editorials/detail/article/one-health/>

⁽³⁾ E.g. risk assessments by the European Food Safety Authority.

⁽⁴⁾ In particular under the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and recommendations of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law').

⁽⁶⁾ [Delegated and implementing acts \(europa.eu\)](#).

⁽⁷⁾ Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, amending Council Decision 90/424/EEC and repealing Council Directive 92/117/EEC.

- (a) the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents;
- (b) the monitoring of related antimicrobial resistance;
- (c) the epidemiological investigation of food-borne outbreaks; and
- (d) the exchange of information related to zoonoses and zoonotic agents

The directive defines zoonosis as “any disease and/or infection, which is naturally transmissible directly or indirectly between animals and humans”. The data from the monitoring foreseen under the directive, provided by the food safety and veterinary authorities of the EU Member States, together with data from zoonosis monitoring in humans provided by public health authorities, are collected and published annually by the European Food Safety Agency and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (see for example the [latest report](#)).

EU support to non-EU countries:

The EU has also been supporting non-EU countries in addressing risks associated with the emergence of zoonotic diseases through wildlife trade, *including for instance* by funding the following actions:

- **EBO-SURSY Project:** Building capacity and surveillance for viral haemorrhagic fevers led by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), working closely with 10 countries in West and Central Africa. Using a One Health approach, it aims to help strengthen national and regional early detection systems for zoonotic wildlife diseases like Ebola, Marburg, Rift Valley Fever, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, and Lassa fever.
- **‘SAFE - Safety across Asia for the global Environment’** project implemented by UNODC in four countries in South-East Asia to contribute to the prevention of wildlife-related pandemics by targeting risks at facilities and locations with a high risk of disease agents’ transmission from wild animals to humans. The SAFE projects aims to develop a framework for targeted risk reduction and mitigation strategies, working directly with the governments of the selected countries.
- **Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme** aiming at improving the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife in forest, savannah and wetland ecosystems, with field projects implemented in 15 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries:
 - to improve how wildlife hunting is regulated;
 - to increase the supply of sustainably produced meat products and farmed fish
 - to strengthen the management capacities of indigenous and rural communities
 - to reduce demand for wild meat, particularly in towns and cities