



Council of the
European Union

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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council

Subject: Draft Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union, in the thirty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats, with regards to amendments to Appendices II and III
- Adoption

1. The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) aims to conserve European wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats. The EU has been a Party to the Convention since 1 September 1982. All 28 Member States are also Parties.
2. The Standing Committee is the governing body of the Bern Convention and, pursuant to Article 17, may adopt amendments to the appendices to the Convention.

3. With a view to the 38th meeting of the Standing Committee, which will take place in Strasbourg, 27-30 November 2018, third Parties to the Convention have presented proposals to amend Appendices II and III to the Convention. Notably, Switzerland proposes to move the Wolf (*Canis lupus*) from Appendix II (strictly protected fauna species) to Appendix III (protected fauna species – regulation is possible) and Norway submitted a proposal to move the Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) from Appendix II (strictly protected fauna species) to Appendix III (protected fauna species – regulation is possible).
4. On 31 October 2018, the Council received the Commission's proposal ¹ for a Council Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, at the 38th meeting of the Standing Committee with regard to these proposed amendments.
5. The Working Party on the Environment (WPE) considered the Commission's proposal for a Council Decision at its meeting on 8 November. Discussions held at this meeting showed that there was a qualified majority in favour of the Commission's proposal.
6. The Permanent Representatives Committee is, therefore, invited to recommend to the Council to:
 - a) adopt, by qualified majority, the draft Council Decision set out in document 14170/18 (text finalised by the Jurist-Linguists) as an "A" item on the agenda of one of its forthcoming sessions;
 - b) decide not to publish the Decision in the Official Journal; and
 - c) decide to inform the European Parliament of the adoption.

¹ Doc. 13800/18 - COM(2018) 731 final.