



Brussels, 24 November 2017
(OR. en)

14764/17

**Interinstitutional File:
2017/0277 (NLE)**

ENV 974

'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 at the thirty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats with regard to an amendment to Appendix II to the Convention - 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 37th meeting of the Standing Committee, which will take place in Strasbourg, on 5-8 December 2017, the Republic of Albania has presented a proposal to ensure special protection of an additional subspecies, the Balcan lynx, by amending Appendix II to the Convention.

4. On 30 October 2017, 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 37th meeting of the Standing Committee with regard to an amendment to Appendix II to the Convention.
5. The Working Party on International Environment Issues (WPIEI / Biodiversity) and Working Party on the Environment (WPE) considered the Commission's proposal for a Council Decision at their meetings on 16 and 17 November, respectively. Based on discussions held at these meetings and on delegations' comments, the Presidency prepared a draft Council Decision. After an informal silence procedure that ended on 21 November, the WPE agreed with the draft Council Decision.
6. The Permanent Representatives Committee is, therefore, invited to recommend to the Council to:
 - a) adopt, by qualified majority with all the Member States voting in favour, the draft Council Decision set out in document 14671/17 (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. 13902/17 - COM(2017) 628 final.