



Council of the
European Union

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EMPL 417
SAN 343
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DRAFT MINUTES

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(**Employment, Social Policy**, Health and Consumer Affairs)

8 July 2019

Statements to the non-legislative "A" items set out in 10669/19

Ad "A" item 30: **Council Decision on the EU position at CITES CoP 18**
Adoption

STATEMENT BY AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, DENMARK, LATVIA AND SWEDEN

"Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Latvia and Sweden underline the importance of following the rules and principles of the international agreements EU and its Member States are part of.

In that regard, we have serious concerns regarding the proposed line to take for the incoming Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (as in document 9680/19 and its Annexes).

We underline further the crucial importance for the EU and its Member States to follow the principles of the CITES Convention when assessing proposals, especially the listing criteria set out in Resolution Conference 9.24 (Rev CoP17). Including taking into consideration the most relevant and robust scientific advice for the assessment of listing proposals. The listing criteria guarantee meaningful conservation efforts in the framework of the CITES Convention. Ignoring these jeopardizes the efficiency of the Convention and undermines its credibility. Additionally, successful management of a species and efforts by the respective country that result in significant improvements of the conservation status have to be recognised.

Besides, our internal EU procedures, such as the decision-making mechanisms that are commonly used to formulate a common EU position, must be respected."

STATEMENT BY FRANCE AND LUXEMBOURG

"In order to foster the emergence of a European compromise, France and Luxembourg have accepted the Presidency's draft Decision regarding CITES CoP 18. Nevertheless, we regret the fact that it was not possible for the European Union to adopt a more ambitious position regarding southern African elephants. In 2016 France became the first European state to place restrictions on elephant ivory in its domestic market, with Luxembourg following suit in 2018. France and Luxembourg wish, together with the partners in the African Elephant Coalition, to promote such measures at both European and international level."
