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**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Proposals to be submitted by the EU with a view to the 18th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES COP 18) (Colombo, Sri Lanka, 23 May - 3 June 2019) - Establishment of the EU position = Delegations' statements

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**Statement to be entered in the Coreper minutes**

**STATEMENT BY SPAIN ON THE INCLUSION OF SHORTFIN MAKO (*ISURUS OXYRINCHUS*) IN ANNEX II OF THE CITES CONVENTION**

Spain is a country that manages shark fishery in a responsible manner, as evidenced by the 2009 national ban on retaining on board thresher sharks (family *Alopiidae*) and smooth hammerhead sharks (family *Sphyrnidae*), which is why Spain supported the inclusion of these species in Annex II at that time.

However, in the case of shortfin mako, Spain is opposed to its inclusion in Appendix II of CITES, because it is a species with a wide distribution range and high abundance and productivity, and there is a relevant regulatory framework and a research scheme within the Regional Fisheries Organisations that are sufficiently robust to ensure its conservation.

In addition, shortfin mako is already included in Appendix II of the CMS and in Annex I of the Sharks MoU, and international trade in this species does not constitute a threat to its survival. This is particularly relevant to our position against its inclusion in CITES, bearing in mind that this is precisely the purpose of this Convention.

In light of the above, this species does not meet the requirements that could lead to its inclusion in Appendix II of CITES, because it already benefits from international cooperation for its conservation and management by, among others, the Regional Fisheries Organisations.

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