

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Doha (Qatar), 13-25 March 2010

EU POSITION ON LISTING PROPOSAL 19 TO INCLUDE
ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA IN APPENDIX I

This document has been submitted by Spain, on behalf of the EU and its Member States^{*}.

^{*} The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

1. Main elements of the EU position

The EU and its Member States support the inclusion of Atlantic bluefin tuna under CITES Appendix I.

At the same time, the EU and its Member States consider it vital that CITES and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), like the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), work in a complementary and supportive manner.

The EU and its Member States are therefore of the opinion that there should be an annotation to the listing, which would provide for the following:

- the application of the listing should be deferred until May 2011 so as to enable an assessment of the situation between the 2010 and 2011 fishing season.

- the Standing Committee should assess the situation of the species before May 2011, taking into account any advice by the Animals Committee. If the Standing Committee considers, on the basis of the parameters outlined in the annotation, that the listing is no longer warranted, it would recommend to the Depository Government to initiate a procedure to remove the species from Appendix I under Article XV.2 of the Convention. This would enable the Parties to decide intersessionally and by postal procedure on this removal. If the Standing Committee does not recommend to initiate such procedure, the listing will apply from May 2011.

The EU and its Member States believe that this annotation is necessary for the following reasons:

1. First of all, the Scientific Committee of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is expected to present a full and comprehensive assessment on the biological situation of the species by October 2010. This assessment will provide an updated picture of the situation of the stocks, thus helping Parties ascertain whether the current situation is confirmed or not.
2. Secondly, despite the shortcomings of ICCAT observed in the past years, it must be recognised that, at its last meeting in November 2009, ICCAT considerably reduced Total Allowable Catches and committed to other important measures. CITES Parties should be enabled to assess these measures and their effects after the ICCAT annual meeting in November 2010.

2. Wording of the annotation to the listing

The EU proposes that Atlantic bluefin tuna be included in Appendix I of the Convention with the following annotation:

- a) The application of the inclusion of Atlantic bluefin tuna will be delayed until May 2011, subject to the conditions set in paragraphs b) and c);
- b) The Standing Committee, taking into account any evaluation by the CITES Animals Committee, shall assess:
 - i) whether the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), at its November 2010 meeting, has fully implemented Recommendation [09-06] adopted at its meeting in November 2009, in particular through the establishment of a multiannual recovery plan for the Eastern stock of Atlantic bluefin tuna for 2011-2013;
 - ii) whether ICCAT has suspended fishing activities in case of detection of a serious threat of collapse, in accordance with its own commitment;
 - iii) whether ICCAT demonstrates that full compliance will be guaranteed under this new recovery plan, in particular with the adoption of total allowable catches in line with the advice of the ICCAT Scientific Committee;
 - iv) whether, on the basis of these measures and of the best scientific advice available, international trade can continue without subjecting the species to the threat of extinction.

- c) The Standing Committee, on the basis of this assessment and in case the conditions under b) are met, shall recommend to the Depository Government to initiate a procedure, pursuant to Article XV(2) of the Convention, to remove Atlantic bluefin tuna from Appendix I. Any such recommendation by the Standing Committee shall be adopted through postal procedure before May 2011. In case the CITES Standing Committee presents such recommendation, the application of the listing will be further delayed until the Parties take a decision. The decision on the removal of species from Appendix I will be taken by the Parties by postal procedure. If the CITES Standing Committee does not present such recommendation, the listing shall apply on 1 May 2011".