

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

Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 2-14 October 2004

Strategic and administrative issues

Rules of Procedure

USE OF SECRET BALLOTS

1. At its 12th meeting (Santiago, 2002), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 12.100, directed to the Standing Committee, as follows:

The Standing Committee shall examine the general issue of secret ballots and in particular the question of whether secret ballots should be retained in the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties and, if so, under what conditions. The Committee should review the way in which the use of secret ballots has been formulated in the Rules of Procedure and establish, to the extent possible, whether and when secret ballots have been used under other biodiversity-related conventions and global, multilateral environmental agreements, and report at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. At its 49th meeting (Geneva, April 2003), the Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare, for consideration at its 50th meeting, a document with information on the history of the way in which secret ballots have been dealt with in the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, how they have been used, and the relevant rules and practice of other multilateral environmental agreements.
3. At the 50th meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, March 2004), the Secretariat presented its report in document SC50 Doc. 9 (Rev. 2).
4. The Standing Committee considered this issue and decided not to propose any amendment to the Rules of Procedure relating to secret ballots.