

CITES AND EU ACCESSION COUNTRIES

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CITES - THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

- CITES = International Convention on Trade in Endangered Species, with 164 signatory countries.
- CITES aims to minimize commercial overexploitation of species through a legally binding set of trade controls
- Species are traded using all possible methods of transport and is therefore one of several concerns of AATA

SIGNIFICANCE OF TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES

- Worldwide trade in endangered species, both dead and alive, is worth an estimated 5 billions Euros each year (Interpol)
- In 2002, over 1 million live animals entered the European Community (see Table 1)

TABLE 1

The number of live animals that are legally transported into the European Community in 2002

MAMMALS	8.334
BIRDS	526.310
REPTILES + AMPHIBIANS	259.077
FISH	86.530
INVERTEBRATES	286.548

TOTAL **1.166.799**

CITES VERSUS THE EUROPEAN UNION

- CITES → Trade across international boundaries
- European Union → no customs controls across boundaries of individual member countries → development of EU legal framework that is standardized across all member countries to control trade in CITES-listed species
 - a. See Council Regulation 338/97 and Commission Regulation 1808/2001.
 - b. Some EU Regulations go beyond those of CITES → legal implications to Accession Countries

WHAT ARE THE LEGISLATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR ACCESSION COUNTRIES?

Czech Republic
Cyprus
Estonia
Hungary
Latvia
Lithuania
Malta
Poland
Slovakia
Slovenia

1. Listing of endangered species in Annexes

Different Annexes reflect different threat scenarios → varying trade restrictions

	ANNEXES	
	CITES	EU
Most threatened	I	A
	II	B
Least threatened	III	C
	-	D

- Rough correspondence between CITES and EU Annexes in terms of content
- Category „D“ in EU = for species where the level of trade into the Community is considered high enough to warrant observation (see Council Regulation 338/97, Art. 3).
- EU applies tougher criteria for species listings (e.g. some eagles, wolves, bears).
- The legal framework within which the EU applies tougher trade restrictions which is dealt with in Art. 4 of Council Regulation 338/97.

2. Issue of permits

- *Import Permit* is required for Annex A (CITES) PLUS Annex B species (see Council Regulation 338/97, Art. 4) → Provision for applying Art. IV
- *Import Notification* is required for Annex C and D species (CITES has no such requirement)(see Council Regulation 338/97, Art. 4) → Tracing trend in trade volume

3. Animal Housing Conditions

- Annex A (CITES) PLUS Annex B species must be provided with accommodation that is adequately equipped to properly conserve and care for it. This is a criterium for permit issuance (see Council Regulation 338/97, Art. 4 + Art. 9)

4. Conditions of Transport

- Permits for the transport of live animals are only valid if IATA Live Animals Regulations and CITES Guidelines for Transport are complied with

Thank you for your attention!