



"Embracing Innovation to Conserve the World's Animal Kingdom."

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Copy with References:

Catherine Bearder MEP, MEPs4Wildlife, European Parliament,
Bât. Altiero Spinelli, 10G246, B-1047 Bruxelles, Belgium

Dear Kevin Woodhouse,

The EU's Scientific Review Group's Decisions

References: **A:** IWB letter, dated 16 September 2015
B: Defra letter, DW0385854, dated 29 September 2015
C: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/109252>

Thank you for your letter (reference B) informing me that any resolution proposals to the seventeenth regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP17) is to be a matter of "EU competence," presumably under the EU's accession to CITES, Council Decision (EU) 2015/451, adopted on 6 March 2015.

However I assume the UK (via Defra's remit) is still able to voice suggestions for the EU's CITES resolution adoption and consideration of the EU's 28 Member States (via the EU's Scientific Review Group (SRG) presumably).

So the suggested resolutions forwarded (reference A) are still valid, plus the supporting petition raised (reference C) I would suggest, or how else are British Citizens and UK Residents able to influence the UK's CITES position at EU level?

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I was saddened to read that the EU's SRG agreed on 15 September that lion trophies can still be brought into Europe from Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa, plus Zambia subject to approval on a case-by-case basis. This does not fill me with much hope that the EU's SRG is going to do much to protect the dwindling population of African lions.

The EU's SRG's 'position' would also seem to contradict the 'reassuring' statement made at reference B that "We have worked with the EU to introduce stricter hunting trophy import controls for the African lion and some other species."

This EU's SRG's decision on lion trophy imports into Europe needs to be urgently reviewed and your statements at reference B revisited perhaps, as the breadth of the EU's current prohibition is strongly disputed by amongst others, Catherine Bearder MEP⁽¹⁾ and The Born Free Foundation⁽²⁾.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Alan Wiggins

Founder of International Wildlife Bond (IWB)

(1) "EU approves lion hunting trophy imports despite numbers plummeting," Posted by Lewis North, 24 September 2015 -

http://www.bearder.eu/eu_approves_lion_hunting_trophy_imports

(2) "The EU Fails to Ban Trophy Hunting," 29 September 2015, The Born Free Foundation - [http://www.bornfree.org.uk/news/news-](http://www.bornfree.org.uk/news/news-article/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=1974)

[article/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=1974](http://www.bornfree.org.uk/news/news-article/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=1974)

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