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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.1.2026)

The Commission considers the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)¹ as a cornerstone of the global effort to protect biodiversity and to combat the illegal trade in endangered species. These objectives are central to the European Green Deal², the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030³, and the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking⁴.

The Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy closely followed the preparations for CITES CoP20. The Commission actively engaged with Member States and international partners to ensure that the EU speaks with a strong and united voice, and to promote an ambitious and balanced outcome.

The level of EU representation at CoP20 was higher than at the previous CoP, with the participation of the Deputy Director-General of the Directorate-General for Environment, on behalf the Commission. This reflects the importance that the Commission attaches to the issues at stake and to the success of this important meeting.

¹ <https://cites.org/eng>.

² https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en.

³ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/biodiversity-strategy-2030_en.

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/env/items/773992/en>.