

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000590/25
to the Commission
Isabelle Le Calennec (PPE)
(10 February 2025)**

Subject: Consequences of a possible reclassification of the eel under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

DG ENVI is considering reclassifying the eel to include the species in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. However, although the eel population remains low, it seems to have stabilised over the last few years, in particular thanks to the efforts of fishermen and the fisheries sector to implement Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 and carry out restocking initiatives. This trend is starting to bear fruit, as confirmed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and as observed by practitioners on the ground. Eels have a lifespan of 15 to 20 years.

Reclassifying the eel under Appendix I would have serious repercussions on the French fisheries sector, including knock-on effects downstream, since it would entail a ban on the marketing of European eels for consumption and thus lead to the closure of certain artisanal fisheries, which nevertheless play a key role in restocking and stock recovery efforts. In addition, a total ban gives rise to concerns about the development of a sizeable black market.

1. In the interests of more transparent governance, does the Commission intend to present this initiative to all stakeholders, keep them informed of progress and continue its work in consultation with the professionals affected by this possible measure?
2. Will it assess the socioeconomic consequences of reclassifying the eel in this way?

Submitted: 10.2.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(14 March 2025)**

In preparation of the next Conference of Parties (CoP) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) ⁽¹⁾ that will take place on 24 November — 5 December 2025, the Commission, in cooperation with the experts from the Member States, has identified a number of species that required to be analysed in view of potential EU listing proposals.

Amongst others, the listing of the European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*, currently listed in Appendix II) in Appendix I was considered in this context, taking into account the advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

However, the analysis and the input from Member States experts, stakeholders and other Range States of European eel have led the Commission to conclude that it is necessary to further analyse the potential impact of the uplisting of the European eel on the conservation status of the species.

Therefore, at this stage, the Commission does not intend to propose to the Council listing of European eel in CITES Appendix I.

⁽¹⁾ <https://cites.org/eng>