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ENVIRONMENT
Directorate F - Global Sustainable Development
ENV- F3 - Multilateral Environmental Cooperation

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Mrs Anja Semling
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Email: mail@mayday-elefanten.de

Subject: When does the EU close the ivory trade?

*Ref.: your letter to Commissioner Vella of 13/04/18
your information request via DG ENV's Europa website of 12/04/018*

Dear Ms Semling,

Thank you for your letter to Commissioner Vella of 13/04/18 and your communication via the DG ENV Europa website of 12/04/18 concerning the ivory trade and its connection to the poaching of elephants. The fight against elephant poaching and trafficking of ivory is an important priority for the EU and its Member States, and relevant measures are included the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking, which has been guiding our work in this area since 2016.¹

Already now, very strict rules apply in the EU to the import, internal trade and export of ivory. The re-export of raw ivory from the EU has effectively been suspended since July 2017. Trade of worked ivory items within the EU is scrutinised very carefully and permitted only under strict conditions.

In line with Resolution 10.10 by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as revised in 2016,² our aim is to make sure that legal trade of ivory items within and from the EU does not contribute to elephant poaching or illegal trade in ivory.

From September to December 2017 the Commission organised a public consultation, open to all citizens and organisations, on ivory trade in the EU. The purpose of this consultation was to gather additional data on legal and illegal ivory in the EU, and to collect views on future EU priorities against ivory trafficking, including on whether the current EU rules on ivory trade should be tightened further.³ The consultation attracted more than 90 000 responses and

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/trafficking_en.htm

² <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/document/E-Res-10-10-R17.pdf>

³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-ivory-trade-eu_en

we are carefully considering the findings, to determine the next steps in consultation with Member States' experts.

More detailed information on relevant current EU policies and on the ongoing process of implementing the CITES Resolution is included in our recent submission to the CITES Secretariat.⁴

Yours sincerely,



Emmanuelle Maire
Head of Unit

⁴ <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/EU%20reply%20to%20CITES%20notification%202017-77%20on%20domestic%20ivory%20markets.pdf>