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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention

Inventory of amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention (1997-2024)

*Document prepared by
the Secretariat of the Bern Convention*

Proposed amendments to Appendix I

Standing Committee	Proposing country	Species concerned	Amendments
1997	Bulgaria	Inclusion of 5 plant species from Central and Eastern Europe : <i>Carex secalina</i> , <i>Dracocephalum ruyschiana</i> L, <i>Ophrys oestriifera</i> Bieb, <i>Ophrys taurica</i> , and <i>Orchis provincialis</i> (only species not decided in 1996 were examined).	Adopted ¹
1999	Malta	Inclusion of 6 plant species from Maltese Islands and Southern Europe : <i>Helichrysum melitense</i> , <i>Palaeocyanus crassifolius</i> , <i>Cremnophyton lanfrancoi</i> , <i>Hyoseris frutescens</i> , <i>Linaria pseudolaxiflora</i> , and <i>Tetraclinis articulata</i> .	Adopted ²
2002	Sweden	Inclusion of 33 species of fungus	Postponed (to the following year)
2003	Sweden	Inclusion of 33 species of fungus	Withdrawn (due to the lack of support from the majority of EU Member States)

Proposed amendments to Appendix II

Standing Committee	Proposing country	Species concerned	Amendments
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¹ Declaration of the European Union: "The Commission supports, from a scientific point of view, the proposal to include the species 50 *Carex secalina* Willd. ex Wahlenb. 60 *Dracocephalum ruyschiana* L. 89 *Ophrys oestriifera* Bieb. 90 *Ophrys taurica* (Aggeenko) Nevski. 93 *Orchis provincialis* Balb but it none the less thinks it inadvisable to support their inclusion in Appendix I to the Bern Convention until the Natura 2000 network has been established. The Community accordingly decides not to exercise its authority, and thus its right to vote, for the time being. It will lodge an objection, with a view to withdrawing it when the Natura 2000 network starts to operate and it is in a position to propose amendments to the Annexes to the Habitats Directive." [\(T-PVS \(97\)63\)](#)

² Declaration of the European Union: "The European Commission supported the proposal to include the Maltese endemic species: *Helichrysum melitense* *Palaeocyanus crassifolius* *Cremnophyton lanfrancoi* *Hyoseris frutescens*, *Tetraclinis articulata* The Commission endorsed the proposal to include the species *Linaria pseudolaxiflora* on scientific grounds, but nevertheless considered that it was not appropriate to support the inclusion of the species in Appendix I to the Bern Convention as long as the Natura 2000 Network had not been set up. The Community therefore decided not to exercise its powers, and therefore its right to vote, for the time being, but left it to the member states to exercise their right to vote. The Community would enter an objection with the intention of withdrawing it once the Natura 2000 Network had come into operation, at which point it would be in a position to propose an amendment to the appendices to the "Habitats" Directive. The species *Tetraclinis articulata*, which is present also in Spain, is not included in the Annex II of the Habitat Directive, however is part of the protected habitat as "Forest of *Tetraclinis articulata*" in Annex I, for this reason the Commission did not have any objection". (T-PVS(1999)30)

1997	Monaco	Inclusion of marine species (<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i> (in Mediterranean))	Adopted ³
		Inclusion of 2 birds and 2 fish Mediterranean species : <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> , <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> and <i>Valencia letourneuxi</i> , <i>Mobula mobular</i>	Adopted
	France	Inclusion of <i>Acipenser sturio</i>	Adopted
1998	Romania	Inclusion of fish species (<i>Romanichtys valsanicola</i>)	Adopted
	Switzerland	Inclusion of insect species (<i>Palingenia longicauda</i>)	Adopted
2000	Moldova	Inclusion of 2 subspecies of carabids beetles : <i>Carabus bessarabicus</i> , and <i>Carabus hungaricus</i> .	Rejected (some delegations invited Moldova to submit a new proposal the following year)
2001	Moldova	Inclusion of 2 subspecies of carabids beetles : <i>Carabus bessarabicus</i> , and <i>Carabus hungaricus</i> .	Adopted ⁴
2017	Albania	Inclusion of the Balkan Lynx (<i>Lynx lynx balcanicus</i>)	Adopted

Proposed amendments to Appendix III

Standing Committee	Proposing country	Species concerned	Amendments
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³ Declaration of the European Union: "The Commission supports inclusion of the species *Cetorhinus maximus* and *Mobula mobular* from a scientific point of view, but none the less thinks it inadvisable to support their inclusion in Appendix II to the Bern Convention until the Natura 2000 network has been established. The Community accordingly decides not exercise its authority, and thus its right to vote, for the time being. It leaves the member states to exercise their right to vote. The Community will lodge an objection, with a view to withdrawing it when the Natura 2000 network starts to operate and it is in a position to propose amendments to the Annexes to the Habitats Directive." (T-PVS (97)63)

⁴ Declaration of the European Union: "The Commission supports inclusion of the species *Carabus hungaricus* from a scientific point of view, but none the less thinks it inadvisable to support their inclusion in Appendix II to the Bern Convention until the Natura 2000 network has been established. The Community decides not exercise its authority, and thus its right to vote, for the time being. It leaves the member states to exercise their right to vote." (T-PVS(2001)89)

1997	Monaco	Inclusion of marine species of the Mediterranean : - PORIFERES (<i>Hippospongia communis</i> , <i>Spongia agaricina</i> , <i>Spongia officinalis</i> , <i>Spongia zimocca</i>) - CNIDARIA (<i>Antipathes sp.plur.</i> , <i>Corallium rubrun</i>) - ECHINODERMS (<i>Paracentrotus lividus</i>) - CRUSTACEANS (<i>Homarus gammarus</i> , <i>Maja squinado</i> , <i>Palinurus elephas</i> , <i>Scyllarides latus</i> , <i>Scyllarides pigmaeus</i> , <i>Scyllarus arctus</i>) - FISH (<i>Epinephelus marginatus</i> , <i>Isurus oxyrinchu</i> , <i>Lamna nasus</i> , <i>Mobula mobular</i> , <i>Prionace glauca</i> , <i>Raja alba</i> , <i>Sciæna umbra</i> , <i>Squatina squatina</i> , <i>Umbrina cirrosa</i>)	Adopted
		Inclusion of 3 marine species : <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> , <i>Lamna nasus</i> and <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> .	Postponed (due to reservations from Norway regarding the need to include these species)
1998	Monaco	Inclusion of 3 marine fish : <i>Anguilla Anguilla</i> , <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> and <i>Xiphias gladius</i> .	Withdrawn (due to reservations from one Contracting Party and the European Commission regarding the need to include these species)

Proposed Amendments for moving species from Appendix II to Appendix III

Standing Committee	Proposal	Species concerned	Amendments
2004	Switzerland	Downlisting of the wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) from Appendix II to Appendix III	Postponed to a further meeting (until a report is carried out by the Bern Convention on the size and distribution trends and threats of the European wolf populations, as well as on the legal considerations on how to deal with species that have improved their populations as a result of protection measures, on the possible use of Article 9 and on the obligations of Parties concerning illegal re-introductions)

2005	Switzerland	Downlisting of the wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) from Appendix II to Appendix III	Postponed to the following year (to give time to Contracting Parties to examine the reports)
2006	Switzerland	Downlisting of the wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) from Appendix II to Appendix III	Rejected The Committee decided to keep the wolf in Appendix II while further reflection regarding Article 9 is needed. The Committee further asked to be associated with the activities of the working group of the European Commission on the management of large carnivores.
2018	Switzerland	Downlisting of the wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) from Appendix II to Appendix III	Postponed to a further meeting (many Parties were not ready to take a position)
	Norway	Downlisting of the Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>)	Postponed to a further meeting (many Parties were not ready to take a position)
2019	Switzerland	Downlisting of the wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) from Appendix II to Appendix III	Postponed to a further meeting (many Parties were not ready to take a position)
	Norway	Downlisting of the Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>)	Rejected (failure to reach the required 2/3rd majority of the Contracting Parties because of EU abstention)
2022	Switzerland	Downlisting of the wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) from Appendix II to Appendix III	Rejected (failure to reach the required 2/3rd majority of the Contracting Parties)
2024	European Union	Downlisting of the wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) from Appendix II to Appendix III	Adopted The Committee concluded that the change would enter into force three months after the date of the formal adoption of the amendment, counted as of 6 December 2024, unless at least one third of the Parties to the Council of Europe's Bern Convention (17) object, in which case it will not enter into force. If fewer than one third of the Parties object, the decision will enter into force only for those Parties which have not objected.

Since 1997:

- Adopted amendments: 11
- Postponed (deferred) amendments: 7
- Withdrawn amendments: 2
- Rejected amendments: 4 (2 times for the wolf – *Canis lupus*)