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**NOTE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
ON THE PROTECTION OF SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA**

Subject: Implementation of the export and import ban for specimens of *Anguilla anguilla* – communication of information to the industry and administrations concerned

In line with the conclusions of the meetings of the Scientific Review Group on 3 December 2010 and of the Wildlife Trade Committee on 6 December 2010, no import or export permits should be issued by EU Management authorities for specimens of European eels until the end of 2011.

To ensure a proper implementation of this regime, the EU Management Authorities should adequately notify all sectors of the industry involved in the harvesting and trade of European eels of the fact that no export and import of European eels will be authorised until the end of 2011. The various administrations taking care of the implementation of Council Regulation 338/97 in the Member States (notably customs services) should also be informed about the new regime.

When communicating this information, the Management Authorities might want to clarify that the regime is subject to the following exemptions:

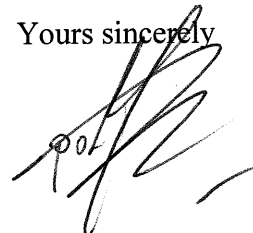
- European eels harvested before the entry into force of the listing in CITES Appendix II (13 March 2009) can still be exported and imported. As a minimum requirement, documentary evidence that the specimens had been harvested before 13 March 2009 needs to be produced. In addition, as agreed by the Wildlife Trade Committee at its 48th meeting on 21 September 2009, specimens of European eel will no longer be considered pre-Convention after 1 April 2011 for live specimens and 1 April 2012 for any other eel products¹;
- In the case of eels re-imported into the EU, a positive opinion can be given if it can be proved that they are derived from eels harvested and exported before the CITES listing came into force (as described above) or from eels having being

¹ The dates refer to the issuance date of CITES documents

exported legally from the EU between 13 March 2009 and 3 December 2010. This requires close tracking, monitoring and reporting by the exporting countries by which the re-exported (aquaculture) products are linked to export documents originally approved by the EU.

The Member States are invited to indicate to the European Commission, **by 20 January 2011**, which measures have been taken to inform their industry and administration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. Schally', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Hugo-Maria Schally
Head of Unit

Cc: Scientific Authorities of the EU Member States