

UNECE/ESCAP Task Force on eCITES-EPIX Pilots

Thursday, 14th of May 2020, WebEx session (9:02-10:20 CEST)

Minutes of the Meeting:

List of participants in the annexes

Item	Discussion	Action/Decision
1	Welcome and approval of the agenda	→ Approved
2	<p>Tour de table (all):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thailand reported that it is contacting the ministry of Fisheries.• ESCAP, Sri Lanka and Singapore reported no major events and decisions since last meeting and are looking forward for cooperation.• The European Commission participates as an observer in this Task Force and is looks forward to learning from experiences patricians which will contribute to the development of the future EU eCITES Hub.• Switzerland continues to further develop its new eCITES system. The system is developed in an Agile approach as a sequence of several development and verification cycles (Sprints). Switzerland expects that the new system can be available for EPIX Sprints in end May or beginning of June.• UNECE is working on a technical specification for EPIX exchanges, focussing on the Orchestration (description of the Web Service calls and the integration into permit processes of the MA). This documentation is based on the based on the EPIX specification used in the pilots lead by Switzerland. Since smaller changes have been made in the Swiss specification, there is a need to integrate them before sending it out. This paper would be made available as a joint UNECE and CITES paper and would be reviewed by the CITES WG on electronic systems and the UN/CEFACT Expert Group. The paper will be presented to this group when a first consolidated draft is available.	
3	<p>Letter of Intent (Switzerland):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Letter of Intent has been drafted by Switzerland and shared with Sri Lanka for approval. This is a model of bilateral agreements.	→ Draft of the Letter of Intent to be shared to the Working Group for information and comments.

	<p>EU Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q: Are all the requirements ready? Sri Lanka answered that it still needs to address some issues, such as security issues before the software is complete. <p>Singapore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q: How are actual quantities registered and how do they work? Sri Lanka answered that the quantities are always mentioned in the EPIX and that the receiving country (importation country), has to report to the exporting country the quantity it receives. If a shipment is lost or there is a problem with the permit, we need to decide how we implement electronic message exchanges and reporting in a consistent manner. Q: How do we deal with the whole document that lists all possible cases where something in the transmission needs attention and where mistakes happen, and how parties or EPIX could deal with it? What are the possible scenarios where permits could be revoked, stolen, misplaced, replaced etc..., which should be addressed in EPIX in accordance to Res Conf 12.3? Does Sri Lanka allow the permit to be amended? Sri Lanka answered that they do not allow permit to be amended but it needs to be cancelled. 	
5	<p>OAB & Next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNCTAD mentioned the possible solutions for making permits available to other MAs using email, Web Service or QR code. At present the WebService calls are pull services only (receiving MA requests permit form issuing MA). The group discussed that push services might be needed at one moment but this requires a deeper discussion. EPIX should also be able to deal with a permit that is suspended, stolen, or when it is revoked. The orchestration of message exchanges for “unhappy” workflows is still to be developed and tested. UNECE noted that the discussion in this group could be of high interest for other UNECE member countries that are currently looking into eCITES development and suggests allowing participating of these countries in the Task Force. No objection has been made. <p>The next meeting is set for Thursday 18th June, 9:00 CEST. UNECE will send a WebEx invite.</p>	<p>→Next meeting will be on Thursday: 18th of June 2020 at 9am CEST.</p> <p>→ Other EU countries will join this Task Force.</p>

Annex1. List of Participants: 17 Participants

Excused:

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Annex2. Agenda Items (CEST)

9:05-9:10	1- Welcome and adoption of the agenda
9:10-9:15	2- Tour de table (all)
9:15-9:30	3- Letter of Intent (Switzerland)
9:30-10:00	4- Presentation of the Sri Lanka eCITES EPIX component (Sri Lanka & UNCTAD) 30 min + 15 min
10:00-10:20	5- OAB & next meeting
