

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

70th Meeting of the Standing Committee

October 3, 2018

Musical Instruments Intervention Regarding Agenda Item 67.1

Annotations

Thank you, Chair.

I am pleased to briefly comment on behalf of the League of American Orchestras, in collaboration with the International Association of Violin and Bow Makers, the Confederation of European Music Industries, International Wood Products Association, Fender Musical Instruments Corporation, the French Musical Instrument Organization, Forest Based Solutions, Taylor Guitars, Martin Guitar, Paul Reed Smith Guitars, as well as several others that are unable to join us here today, including the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada, International Federation of Musicians, Madinter Trade, National Association of Music Merchants, and Pearle* Live Performance Europe.

We are grateful to the Russian Federation for hosting this meeting, and for so beautifully opening the week with music. After all, music is a language that uniquely crosses borders to celebrate and communicate both our unique and shared cultural heritage.

The music community – those of us here, and the many tens of thousands of musicians, orchestras, and makers of instruments from around the world who we represent – are watching the CITES process with great interest. As consideration of a revised *Dalbergia* annotation continues, we seek an outcome that will ensure that both commercial and non-commercial trade in musical instruments is exempted. The absence of a clear and complete exemption for the commercial and non-commercial movement of musical instruments has harmed the trade and has hindered international cultural activity.

While it is extremely difficult to make a comprehensive estimate, we know that the music world is responsible for only a very small amount of global *Dalbergia* consumption – very likely, just a fraction of a percent.

At the same time, the current annotation unnecessarily burdens CITES management authorities. The United States, for example, has experienced an **eightfold increase** in permit applications since the *Dalbergia* genus listing was implemented. A substantial

part of this increased workload comes from permitting used instruments, a responsibility that will grow and continue in perpetuity given the long lifespan of musical instruments.

Both of the proposed revisions outlined in the report of the working group at SC70 Doc. 67.1, recommend exempting finished musical instruments from permit requirements. This is a clear and welcome acknowledgement that travel with and commercial trade in musical instruments does not pose a threat to Appendix II Dalbergia species.

We point out that the detailed language of a revised annotation will matter a great deal, and we wish to emphasize that - depending on the outcome of the annotation revisions - it may be necessary to codify definitions of terms related to non-commercial activity, consolidated shipments, weight limits, and identification and marking requirements, as issued in CITES Notification 2017/078.

The musical instruments community has knowledge of the variety of musical instruments that **most commonly** include Dalbergia, and the quantity of Dalbergia typically in use in each instrument but does not have access to comprehensive information about all musical instrument types that may contain Dalbergia.

Given the array of artisans and manufacturers involved in making musical instruments, and the hundreds of years over which musical instruments have been made, we are able to offer substantial information about the use of Dalbergia in musical instruments most commonly in trade, but not comprehensive or encyclopedic data.

A more detailed statement summarizing the input of musical instrument stakeholders is included in Information Document 27. This statement is signed by more than 20 national and international organizations.

We stand ready to engage in a working group and can confer among the music attendees here on representation in the group.