



**URGENT - Ivory trade - Thanks for your attention**  
Charlotte Nithart to: panel\_ea  
Please respond to c.nithart

31/05/2017 22:08

The Clerk and the Chairman of the LegCo  
Environmental Affairs Panel  
By email

Dear Sir,

Robin des Bois (Robin Hood) is a Non Governmental Organization for the protection of Mankind and the environment based in France and founded in 1985. We have been observers at CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) since 1989 and since 2013 we have been publishing an information and analyses bulletin on poaching and smuggling of animals entitled "On the Trail" (n°16 available online at [http://www.robindesbois.org/wp-content/uploads/ON\\_THE\\_TRAIL\\_16.pdf](http://www.robindesbois.org/wp-content/uploads/ON_THE_TRAIL_16.pdf)). The importance of Hong Kong as an ivory market is well documented and we noted important seizures of smuggled ivory made in Hong Kong thanks to control efforts at airport of entry.

The ban of the import, re-export and possession of ivory for commercial purposes as well as the increase of penalties for wildlife crime are two measures that are urgently needed in Hong Kong.

As for France and elsewhere in the world, we do not support proposals for any compensation to ivory traders. Public money should be devoted to human and technical means to counter wildlife trafficking. Ivory traders have already made money for a very long time at the expense of a common patrimony, the elephants. Moreover, our understanding is that ivory traders will have an additional 5 years grace period once the legislation comes into force. A compensation process could stimulate poaching during this period.

I thank you very much for your attention,

Respectfully,

Charlotte Nithart  
Director

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ROBIN DES BOIS  
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