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To: European Parliament MEPs (Environment, Wildlife Trade Regulations and CITES)

6 November 2015
Our Ref: 20151106-6

Petition for Action Concerning CITES, CoP17 and Violation of EU Wildlife Trade Regulations with Killer Whales at Loro Parque

Dear European Parliament MEPs:

The Free Morgan Foundation is an NGO registered at the Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands (KvK-No. 53471067), to facilitate the rescue, rehabilitation and release of the wild-born female killer whale known as Morgan. Our Board of Directors consists of representatives from the Netherlands, Germany, New Zealand and the United States of America. Our official address is Bosweg 14, 6523 NM Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

We are sending you this correspondence because you have shown leadership in the areas of the Environment, Wildlife Trade Regulations/Wildlife Trafficking and CITES. You have also indicated your interest in a Dolfinaria Free Europe. It is our hope that each of you will take the time to read through the material that is attached and come together as one unified voice in the European Parliament to demand a full investigation by the European Commission and/or European Court of Justice into the issues and legal questions that we raise.

As a Dutch registered NGO in the European Union, the Free Morgan Foundation hereby formally exerts its right to petition the Members of the European Parliament for action as it pertains to a specific point of law and the need for the European Court of Justice to provide a legal ruling concerning interpretation of the scope and limitations of derogations (exemptions) under Article 8(3)(g) of Commission Regulation (EC) 338/97. Specifically that a derogation from Article 8(1) pursuant to Article 8(3)(g) does not authorize breeding.

Attached to this e-mail in support of our petition please find the following documents:

- 1) CITES and the Marine Mammal Protection Act: Comity and Conflict at Loro Parque (White Paper on Whale Laundering).
- 2) Formal request for immediate action by the Spanish CITES MA and the US National Marine Fisheries Service regarding killer whales at Loro Parque. (Spanish and English)

The immediate action being requested by the Free Morgan Foundation is addressed in the letter to the Spanish CITES MA and the US National Marine Fisheries Service calling for direct engagement of the problem as it presently exists at Loro Parque. This document has also been copied to the Dutch CITES MA for consideration.

We are also providing this information to Daniel Calleja Crespo, Director-General Environment for the European Commission and to individual members of the European Commission CITES/Wildlife Trade division level staff responsible for CITES implementation.

At issue is a violation of the European Union Wildlife Trade Regulations implementing CITES and the inadequacies of the language and layout of the EC-Certificate form used for transfer of Appendix II, Annex A specimens within the EU. This is a question of law that not only needs to be resolved as it applies to Morgan, but clarification is necessary to ensure proper application of Article 8 (3) derogations to all future transfers of Annex A specimens.

We call you attention to this matter because it is also directly relevant to issues that must be addressed at CoP17 where the European Union will be participating as a Party for the first time since its accession to CITES. We have illustrated the pressing need for action by the Parties through the case study of Morgan as presented in our white paper (attached) on whale laundering.

The broad purpose of our white paper is to highlight the systemic inadequacies in the CITES framework when applied at the individual case level. The issues addressed have been left unresolved for far too long and deserve both discussion and resolution by the Parties at CoP17. The Free Morgan Foundation hopes to initiate an international dialogue prior to CoP17 that will also facilitate a long overdue discussion in the European Union about the effectiveness of the Wildlife Trade Regulations, particularly for Annex A specimens and in the United States of America, revision of the Marine Mammal Protection Act concerning public display must also be re-examined in light of Morgan's case.

We respectfully request a formal written acknowledgement of receipt and acceptance of this request for action including a detailed response concerning your intentions to address the issues raised herein to be delivered via e-mail to info@freemorgan.org no later than 20 November 2015.

Sincerely,

Dr I. N. Visser (PhD)



Chair &
Scientific Adviser

H. Bartels



Vice-Chair

T. M. Hardie



Head of IT

R. B. Lisker



Treasurer

M. V. Spiegl (J.D.)



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