



Pearle* FIM Statement

Commission stakeholder meeting 22 September 2022

I speak on behalf of Pearle* - Live Performance Europe and FIM, the International Federation of Musicians. We are part of an international stakeholder group of the music sector which also includes bow- and instrument makers as well as other associations of the music industry. We have worked closely together on Paubrasilia echinata, or Pernambuco, which is currently regulated by CITES under Appendix II with Annotation #10. And we fully support the statement of our colleagues from CSFI/CAFIM/IPCI.

I comment on the proposal by Brazil (CoP19 Prop. 49), which would list Pernambuco in Appendix I.

We, musicians, orchestras and music ensembles, support the efforts to conserve Pernambuco through an adequate policy solution that can effectively sustain the species without damaging the music sector or putting unnecessary burdens on travelling musicians or orchestras, commerce in bows, and CITES management authorities.

The Brazilian proposal fails to address the impact of Appendix I listing on the music sector. Should this proposition be adopted, its consequences would be highly detrimental to musicians and cultural institutions. It would also jeopardise the historic craft of bow making and millions of people in audiences worldwide.

The music sector is highly dependent on Pernambuco, as this wood used for bow making has a critical influence on the sound of instruments and cannot be replaced by other tree species or materials without altering the performance. In addition, the bow-makers community has engaged for many years in the extensive replanting of Pernambuco, mainly for conservation purposes. The Brazilian proposal would greatly jeopardize this ambitious initiative without replacing it with any equivalent conservation plan.

Concretely, the listing of Pernambuco in Annex I (or the inclusion of finished bows in Appendix II) would entail the following consequences on global commercial and non-commercial trade:

- All non-commercial international travel by musicians carrying Pernambuco bows - including bows crafted decades or centuries ago - would become subject to CITES permitting, inspection, and credentialing requirements at global ports.
- International commercial trade, including sale, resale and repair of bows, would be severely restricted.
- Limits on resale would jeopardise the lifetime investments musicians and makers have made in existing bows.
- The efforts undertaken by the bow-makers community for more than 20 years to replant Pernambuco, which has resulted in the planting of more than 340,000 seedlings, would be compromised.



We believe a successful solution is possible. We call on the European Commission to carefully assess the impact of the Brazilian proposal on the music sector and to include the protection of music along with the conservation of Pernambuco as key priorities when adopting a position on Pernambuco for CoP19. Pearle* and FIM remain available to provide any information or evidence you may need and fully commit to further contributing to the policy process in preparation for CoP19.