



To:  
European Commissioner for Environment Karmenu Vella  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 Bruxelles  
By email : cab-karmenu-vella-contact@ec.europa.eu

11 July 2017

**Subject: Ending domestic ivory trade in Europe**

Dear Commissioner Vella,

We would like to express our support for the European Commission's recent ban on re-export of raw ivory. The decision a tremendous step forward to protect elephants.

eBay takes the alarming decline in elephant populations throughout Africa very seriously and works closely with NGOs and law enforcement agencies globally to fight international ivory trafficking.

Notably, eBay took the important decision in January 2009 to ban the sale of all ivory items on its platforms worldwide to ensure a consistent policy enforcement while tackling illegal ivory trade further. This decision was taken also to avoid legal ivory trade feeding the illegal ivory market.

Unfortunately, legal trade in ivory has for too long made it difficult to combat illegal trade. Therefore, we support courageous initiatives to ban all trade in ivory. Distinguishing legal from illegal ivory is extremely complex and time consuming, making enforcement of an impartial ban impractical.

Indeed, eBay remains concerned about the poaching crisis and would consequently strongly support a complete ban of all ivory markets in the European Union along with the implementation of a ban on all ivory (re-)exports and imports. This decision would certainly help concerned stakeholders to better unify their efforts to put an end to the poaching crisis and the resulting decline in elephant populations.

We look forward to continue playing our part on this important issue.

Yours Sincerely,

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