

# CITES news - Prague



## Czech Environmental Inspectorate



In the December of 2009 CEI, on notice from NGO, inspected a restaurant which prepared meals from bear meat. Samples of meat were taken during the inspection. The restaurant employees knew neither exact species of bear nor origin of the specimen. There was only an invoice from a wholesale distributor for more than 22 kg of bear meat. The distributor company was after that also inspected and no bear meat was found on their premises. This company declared the meat was from brown bear (*Ursus arctos* - annex II/A) and bought from a Slovakian company. Brown bear can be legally hunted in Slovak Republic with hunting permission. Samples from every legally hunted bear in SR are collected and analyzed by one Slovakian university. Therefore, CEI sent samples of inspected meat to the university for comparison and verification if the meat was from legally hunted brown bear. However, after half a year, CEI did not receive any result from the lab. Meanwhile, CEI inspectors were informed from other sources: the meat was from a brown bear shot by employees of the same university! They had legal hunting permission, but shot larger bear than was allowed. Due to it the institution had been fined by the Slovakian Environmental Inspectorate and request for exemption for commercial purposes had been denied. In spite of this, meat from this bear had been sold to Slovakian company and then to the Czech Republic. The Czech restaurant and wholesale distributor were fined for commercial use of Annex A species meat without exemption, Slovakian colleagues were informed and the request for analysis of bear meat was cancelled.

### More information:

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