



The European Commission's proposal for legislation to address Invasive Alien Species

**DG ENV – Biodiversity Unit
European Commission**

**Symposium – Aliens on the horizon
Brussels, 12 March 2014**



Invasive Alien Species (IAS)

Alien species

- Transported through human action across ecological barriers
- Intentionally or unintentionally
- More than 12,000 alien species in Europe

Invasive alien species

- 10-15% of alien species are considered invasive (1200-1500)
- Have serious negative impacts on biodiversity, as well as on human health and the economy
- IAS are second major cause of biodiversity loss
- IAS cost €12 billion/year in Europe

Increasing numbers of IAS, increasing costs





EU Biodiversity Strategy

- Biodiversity Strategy 2011-2020, incl. target 5
 - **IAS and pathways are identified and prioritised**
 - **Priority species are controlled or eradicated**
 - **Pathways are managed to prevent introductions and establishment of new IAS**
- **Action 15: integrate additional biodiversity concerns into plant and animal health regimes**
- **Action 16: establish a dedicated legislative instrument on IAS**



Dedicated legislative instrument on IAS guiding principles

- Prioritisation:
 - **Smart use of resources, focusing on the worst IAS**
 - **Proportionality**
- Focus on prevention
 - **Avoid problems or tackle them at the onset**
 - **Avoid escalation and save resources**
- Use existing instruments and coordination:
 - **Do full justice to action at national level**
 - **Balancing the need to coordinate action with flexibility**



Regulation on Invasive Alien Species

- **Chapter 1: General provisions**

- Chapter 2:

Prevention

- Chapter 3:

Early Detection and Rapid Eradication

- Chapter 4:

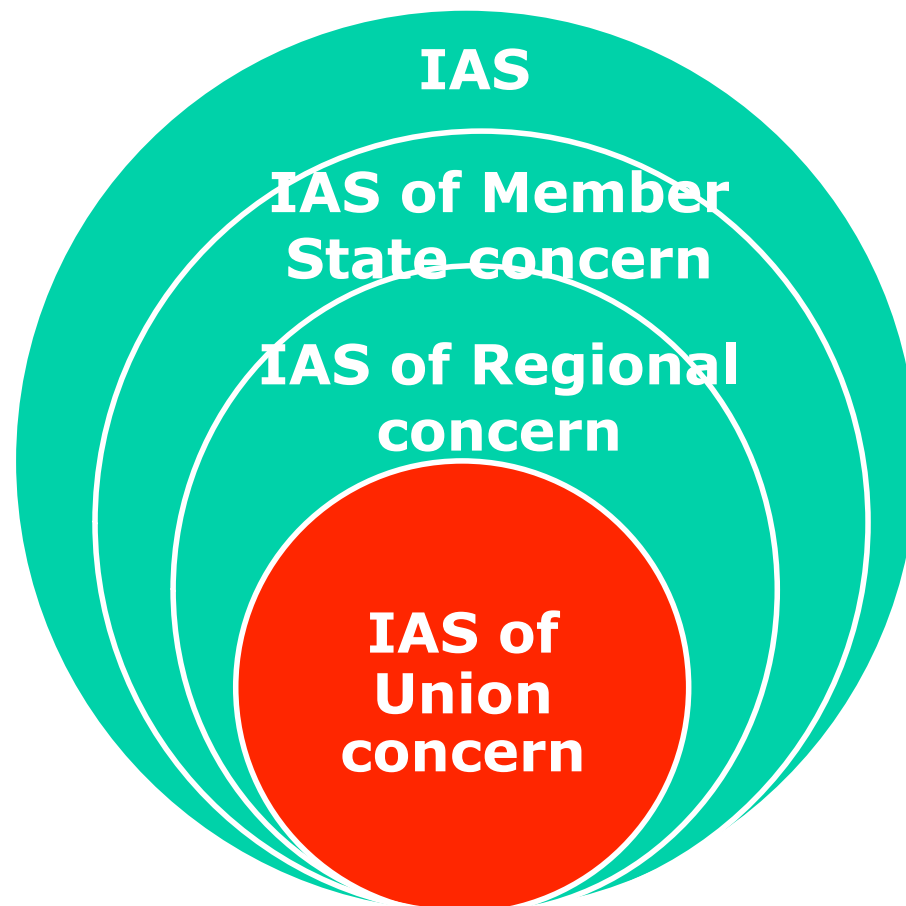
Management of established IAS

- Chapter 5: Final provisions





List of IAS of Union concern



- Dynamic list
- Developed and updated with the assistance of a Committee (with Member States) and a scientific forum
- Based on criteria and full risk assessment
- **Horizon scanning to play a role**



Criteria for IAS of Union concern

- a) Alien to the territory
- b) Capable of establishing and spreading
- c) Likely to have significant adverse impacts on biodiversity, and also on human health and the economy
- d) Demonstrated by **risk assessment** that action at Union level is required
- e) Likely that inclusion in list will prevent, minimise or mitigate the adverse impacts

IAS listed may be present or absent from EU





Risk assessments

Elements

- Species description
- Reproduction and spread
- Pathways of introduction and spread
- Risk of introduction and spread
- Current and future distribution
- Adverse impacts
- Potential damage
- Known uses and benefits

Rationale

- Rigorous assessment
- Harmonised
- Build upon existing risk assessment protocols – no overhaul of existing system
- Study ongoing to develop protocol

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Bans on IAS of Union concern

IAS of EU concern shall not be intentionally :

- Brought into or transited through the Union
- Kept or bred, including in contained holding
- Transported, except in context of eradication
- Placed on the market
- Used or exchanged
- Permitted to reproduce
- Released into the environment

Rationale

- Worst species banned from the EU
- EU-wide action
- Limited derogations envisaged under specific conditions
- Unintentional introductions addressed separately



Action beyond IAS of Union concern

Emergency measures:

- Preliminary evidence – spp likely to meet criteria
- Within 2 yrs – full risk assessment needed
- Possible extension EU level + national measures repealed

IAS of regional concern:

- Regional cooperation
- Incl. IAS native within the EU

IAS of Member State concern:

- Measures at MS level

Compatible with Treaty and notified to Commission

Rationale

- Possibility to act quickly on potentially very damaging IAS
- Anti-chamber of EU list

- MS prerogative to identify IAS problematic for their region or territory

- Fully WTO and SPS compliant + in line with other EU laws



Pathways of unintentional introductions

Measures

- MS analyse pathways and identify priority pathways
- Horizon scanning to play a role**
- National action plan for priority pathways
- Measures to range from awareness measures to regulatory measures

Rationale

- Important to tackle unintentional introductions
- Flexibility allowing also know-how build up

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Surveillance and border controls

Measures

Surveillance

- MS to set up surveillance systems – detect IAS in the environment

Border control

- MS to put in place border control structures – prevent intentional introductions of IAS

Rationale

- Surveillance, maximising the use of existing surveillance, e.g. nature legislation
- Citizens' science

- Border controls, using existing structures of veterinary and phytosanitary rules



Early detection and rapid eradication

Measures

Early detection

- MS to immediately notify Commission and other MS of detection of IAS of Union concern

Rapid eradication

- MS to proceed with rapid eradication
- Due regard to human health, environment and animal welfare

Rationale

- Notifications are key for rapid reaction and preparedness
- Early action = best chance to avoid escalation of problem
- Limited derogations envisaged under specific conditions

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Management measures and restoration

Measures

- Obligation for MS to manage IAS of Union concern widely spread in their territory
- Management = eradication, control or containment
- Due regard to human health, environment and animal welfare
- Proportionate restoration measures for ecosystems damaged by IAS

Rationale

- IAS of Union concern may be present in some MS
- Management action needed to mitigate their damage and avoid further spread to other MS
- Flexible and proportionate approach – MS can devise the measures fit for their circumstances

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Final provisions

- Reporting - MS share information with Commission
- Set up of information exchange mechanisms building upon existing work (easin.jrc.ec.europa.eu)
- Public participation – standard provisions
- Administrative measures and sanctions
- Committee and scientific forum





Thank you for your attention!

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[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/
invasivealien/index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivealien/index_en.htm)

