



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

### Press Release

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#### **12 new species added to EU list of invasive alien species demonstrating continued commitment to protect biodiversity**

**Today, the European Commission took another important step towards halting biodiversity loss with the adoption of an update to the [list of invasive alien species \(IAS\)](#) that require action across the EU.**

These 12 new species have been added following the positive opinion in the IAS Committee consisting of Member States representatives because they cause environmental and economic damage on a scale that justifies dedicated measures across the Union. Member States are required to address these species by preventing them from being introduced, kept, sold, transported, reproduced or released. Member States will also have to put in place appropriate measures to tackle new invasions or established populations of the listed species.

Currently, in Europe there are around 1800 plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms that are alien and invasive to their natural environment. Their numbers are rapidly growing. Invasive alien species are one of the major causes of biodiversity loss. They also have major economic consequences in areas such as health care and animal health costs, crop yield losses, fish stock losses, damage to infrastructure and the navigability of rivers.

Karmenu Vella, EU Commissioner for Environment, Fisheries and Maritime Affairs said: *"We have just added 12 more species to the list of invasive alien species. This shows we are serious with our commitment to protect biodiversity in Europe. We are acting on a problem that costs us over € 12 billion every year and requires a coordinated approach across the EU. Together with the Member States, we will continue to identify and address the most damaging species."*

The rules will start applying 20 days after publication of the list in the Official Journal of the European Union. Underpinning with scientific work, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre has recently published the first ever [Baseline Distribution of Invasive Alien Species of Union concern](#) for 37 species of Union concern (Commission Implementing Reg. 1141/2016). The list and more information are available on DG Environment [website](#).