



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 08.05.2014
C(2014) 3092 final*

Dear President,

The European Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion supporting its efforts to tackle the problem of invasive alien species through its proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species {COM(2013) 620 final}.

The Commission takes note of the Senát's observations on certain elements of the proposal and would like to stress that some of these comments have been debated in the context of the ordinary legislative procedure.

In particular, the forthcoming Regulation seeks to address the threats posed by invasive alien species to biodiversity, as well as the negative impacts on human health and the economy that these species can cause, through a coordinated approach that would apply across sectors and across the EU. The influence that climate change may have on the spread of invasive alien species, once they have been introduced in the EU, is taken into consideration and the ability to establish and spread will be examined under current and foreseeable climate change conditions. The Commission agrees that a balanced approach should be taken and the Regulation seeks to focus exclusively on invasive alien species, i.e. those alien species that cause damage, and not on all alien species.

As regards the proposal to focus on a maximum of 50 species to start with, the Commission wishes to underline that the intention of such a cap was to ensure that there could be predictability in the costs for Member States. In the context of the ordinary legislative procedure, this approach has been modified into one that ensures prioritisation of action on the species with the worst impacts, through adjustments in the criteria for listing. Such an approach is expected to lead to similar results and the Commission could accept it.

The Commission acknowledges that the situation concerning invasive alien species varies widely in the Member States and has proposed measures that would ensure a coherent approach, while retaining enough flexibility for Member States to select the management techniques that are most adapted to their specific circumstances and to the density of a given invasive alien species in their territory.

The points made above are based on the initial proposal presented by the Commission which is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council at which your government is represented.

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
President of the Senát
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4
CZ – 118 01 PRAGUE 1*

The Commission hopes that these comments address the concerns raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Janez Potočnik
Member of the Commission*