

Parliament of Romania
Chamber of Deputies

President

Ref.: 1/3998/VZ
Date: 19/11/2013

OPINION

**on the 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**

Having regard to the Treaty of Lisbon, in particular Articles 5 and 12 of the Treaty on European Union and Protocols 1 and 2 thereto,

Having regard to the Constitution of Romania, as republished, in particular Article 148 thereof,

Having regard to Decision No 11/2011 of the Chamber of Deputies, in particular Article 28 thereof,

Taking into account the opinion presented by the Committee on public administration, regional planning and ecological balance at its meeting of 06/11/2013,

Considering the draft opinion adopted by the Committee for European Affairs at its meeting of 06/11/2013,

Having regard to the approval given by the Permanent Office of the Chamber of Deputies on 12/11/2013,

The Chamber of Deputies, acting in accordance with Article 40 of Decision No 11 of the Chamber of Deputies of 27 April 2011, hereby adopts this Opinion:

We welcome the following key issues addressed in the legislative proposals, which demonstrate particular concern for the interests of the European Union:

- the objectives relating to the preservation of biodiversity justify using as a legal basis Article 192(1) TFEU, which refers to implementing the EU objectives of preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment, protecting human health, ensuring prudent and rational utilisation of natural resources, and promoting measures dealing with regional or worldwide environmental problems;
- the Proposal proposes the introduction of procedures for coordinated reaction by the Member States with a view to reducing the risk associated with the impact of alien invasive species, and a Regulation is the most appropriate legislative instrument for achieving that;
- there is an appropriate degree of flexibility in the overall package of measures aimed at preventing and managing the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, comprising a mix of European and national, regional and local measures.

After having examined the system of rights and duties under the Proposal, the Chamber of Deputies would draw attention to the following points of interest:

1. EU-level examination of the scientific basis justifying coordinated action by the Member States aimed at eliminating invasive alien species, considering that in many cases there is very little knowledge in this area;
2. referring to the precautionary principle, as enshrined in international environmental law, might be sufficient in such cases;
3. however, the precautionary principle is easier to justify in the case of inter-governmental actions than in the case of an EU-level action, and this could reduce the effectiveness of the Regulation in situations of this kind.

This opinion is addressed to the presidents of, respectively, the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission, as well as to the Romanian government.

President,
Valeriu Ștefan ZGONEA