



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
 ENVIRONMENT
 Directorate B – Natural Capital
ENV.B.2 - Biodiversity

MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC FORUM ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

21 APRIL 2015 FROM 9:00 TO 18:30

AT DG ENVIRONMENT, 5 AVENUE DE BEAULIEU, BRUSSELS

ROOM C

SUMMARY MINUTES

The first meeting of the Scientific Forum on Invasive Alien Species was held in Brussels on 21 April 2015. The following Member States participated in the meeting: AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, and UK. GR and MT were not represented.

The European Commission (COM) was represented by Units ENV.B.2 and JRC.H.1. The meeting was chaired by the Head of Unit ENV.B.2. A full list of meeting participants is provided in Annex 1.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

COM welcomed the delegates to the meeting. COM in particular stressed the importance of Regulation no 1143/2014 on invasive alien species in the framework of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy which will undergo a Mid-Term Review later this year. The entry into force of Regulation 1143/2014 on 1 January 2015 was therefore a very timely signal of the commitment to deliver on the ambitious EU biodiversity objectives. The scientific forum will be the place for scientific support for the implementation of the regulation.

The proposed agenda was adopted without comments. There were no items added under Any Other Business.

2. FRAMEWORK FOR COMMISSION EXPERT GROUPS AND ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

COM explained the framework for Commission Expert Groups, as stipulated by the COM communication on Expert Groups C(2010)7649¹ and the accompanying working document SEC(2010)1360². The transparency requirements were explained, in relation

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/PDF/C_2010_EN.pdf

² http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/PDF/SEC_2010_EN.pdf

also to the obligation of publication of documents on the online Register³ of the Commission Expert Groups.

COM presented for adoption the standard Rules of Procedure of expert groups (RoP) provided in the working document SEC(2010)1360.

The RoP were adopted without modifications.

3. ROLE OF THE SCIENTIFIC FORUM ACCORDING TO REGULATION 1143/2014

COM presented for information the specific role of the scientific forum according to Article 28 of Regulation 1143/2014, and its complementarity with the role of the committee on invasive alien species.

There were no comments or questions on this item.

4. CLARIFICATIONS ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF LISTING IAS OF UNION CONCERN

COM presented for information the relevant provisions under Regulation 1143/2014, in particular that three distinct categories of measures were foreseen, following a hierarchical approach 1) prevention, 2) early detection and rapid eradication and 3) management of IAS that are widely spread. The respective obligations and options were explained.

5. OVERVIEW OF PREPARATORY WORK ON EASIN

COM provided an introduction to EASIN, the European Alien Species Information Network. EASIN will become the core of the information support system to be established by the Commission as foreseen under Article 25 of Regulation 1143/2014. It will provide important support to the work of the Committee. COM explained how EASIN was conceived and is being developed, demonstrated its current functionalities, and explained the data quality management through the editorial board and the notification system for MS detections through NOTSYS. COM also informed about a project developing a smart phone application.

COM invited the members of the Scientific Forum to explore EASIN: <http://easin.jrc.ec.europa.eu/> and forward comments and suggestions to ENV-IAS@ec.europa.eu in view of its further development and improvement. Members of the scientific forum and Scientists from MS, interested to join the editorial board were invited to express their interest. The editorial board will meet in November or December in Brussels. There will be an Enlargement workshop in October in Ispra, aiming at including more databases.

6. OVERVIEW OF PREPARATORY WORK ON RISK ASSESSMENTS

COM provided an overview on the preparatory work towards the first list of IAS of Union concern. COM had commissioned a study and held an ad-hoc scientific workshop with the purpose of identifying existing Risk Assessments of IAS compliant with the

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=faq.faq&aide=2>

Regulation. All relevant material had been made available to the members of the Scientific Forum prior to the meeting and is also publicly available^{4 5}.

COM clarified that this work on risk assessments is a first step towards the list of IAS of Union concern, which collects information on Article 4(3)(a),(b),(c),(d). In a second step compliance with Article 4(3)(e) and Article 4(6) on risk management is to be examined for each of the species. The study and workshop resulted in risk assessments that are sufficiently robust to propose a species for listing, but they were not meant to check for compliance with the criteria for including the IAS on the Union list.

As the timeline was short, the first list would have to be based on existing risk assessments. Experts had (1) reviewed existing risk assessments, (2) developed minimum standards based on the criteria, literature and the WTO-requirements, (3) had the minimum standards peer reviewed and (4) screened the existing risk assessments against the minimum standards. This had revealed that none of the existing risk assessments were fully complying with the minimum standards, but there was a series of risk assessments that were almost compliant. As a follow-up, an ad-hoc scientific workshop had been organised to complete the almost compliant risk assessments. The result was a list of 52 compliant risk assessments. COM stressed that this list was the result of scientific work and could not be regarded as the list that the Commission would be proposing or considered to represent the opinion of the Commission.

In parallel, COM has commissioned another (ongoing) study to prioritise species for future new risk assessments, in order to support future implementing acts on the list of IAS of Union concern. This will allow the implementation of the Regulation to become more preventive.

COM stressed that it is important to be aware that the list of IAS of Union concern will be a dynamic list that will be updated regularly thanks to the empowerment of the Commission to adopt implementing acts.

COM provided a quick overview of the feedback received from the Member States, with needs for further support on future risk assessments, on the listing process and on the implementation.

COM proposed the role that the scientific forum could play in validating further risk assessments.

COM finally explained how it intends to proceed towards the list. It developed a table including following assessments for all of the species with a compliant risk assessment:

- A. Is the IAS having adverse impact on biodiversity or ecosystem services?
- B. Is the impact assessed in A aggravated by adverse impact on human health or economy?
- C. Will listing effectively prevent, minimise or mitigate adverse impacts, i.e. are there effective measures available?

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivalien/docs/Final%20report_12092014.pdf

⁵ <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivalien/docs/Workshop%20report.pdf>
and <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivalien/docs/Annex%202020New%20risk%20assessments.pdf>

- D. Due consideration for the implementation cost for MS and the cost-effectiveness of measures, i.e. are the effective measures also cost-effective?
- E. Due consideration to socio-economic aspects, i.e. are there any benefits that are counterbalancing previous considerations?

COM stressed that this is work in progress, on which all comments are welcome, on the approach as well as on the first assessment. COM stressed the importance of professional secrecy, this table is very preliminary and not fit for public consumption.

COM also raised awareness on potential conflicts of interest. COM stressed that scientists involved in the study or workshop should refrain from intervening on discussions on their own work.

The discussion first focused on questions and comments on the presentation, on the overall approach, and finally on a discussion per species.

In reply to questions raised by the members of the group:

- COM explained that any risk assessment would be considered, irrespectively of the protocol it is based upon, provided that the risk assessment fulfils the conditions under the Regulation 1143/2014.
- COM explained that animal health issues are excluded from Regulation 1143/2014.
- COM confirmed that how to upscale national risk assessments needs further discussion. COM explained that risk assessments should not necessarily be done at the EU level, if they include information showing compliance with the first four criteria in at least two other MS, this should be sufficient.
- COM clarified that as long as the Canada goose is listed under the Birds Directive, listing under Regulation 1143/2014 is not possible.
- COM explained that a dynamic list is envisaged. The Committee will meet several times per year. At every meeting additional species can be considered for listing. COM referred to plant and animal health for comparison. Moreover there is the route for emergency measures.
- COM explained that MS can propose species for delisting as well, providing evidence that the species no longer complies with the criteria for listing.
- COM explained that monetary assessments should be captured in the RA when available but they should not be compulsory. Unnecessary burdens should be avoided, taking into account that monetary assessments are not always possible.

The list was then discussed per species and the table was adjusted accordingly.

When in following table pathway management is indicated as an effective measure, this may be trade restrictions. Trade restrictions can be very effective in avoiding new invasions, in particular for species that are difficult or impossible to manage (e.g. marine species).

Disclaimer

"The tables below represent an overview of the collected information, further refined by the meeting participants who are representatives of the scientific community appointed by the Member States. It is work in progress and cannot, under any circumstances, be attributed to the European Commission. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is responsible for the use which might be made of this information."

		A Art 4.3.c-d Impact BD / ESS	B Art 4.3.c-d Impact Health / econ	C Art 4.3.e Effective measures	D Art 4.6 Cost- effective Measures	E Art 4.6 Socio- economic benefits
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	Common ragweed	(Biodiversity)	Allergy Agriculture	Control	?	-
<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Water fern	(Biodiversity) Recreation	-	Control	No	Feed Bio-energy?
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	Eastern Baccharis	Biodiversity	Allergy	Control	Yes	-
<i>Callosciurus erythraeus</i>	Pallas's squirrel	Biodiversity	-	Control	Yes	Pet trade
<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	Fanwort	Biodiversity Recreation Drainage	-	Control	Yes	Horticulture
<i>Caprella mutica</i>	Japanese Skeleton Shrimp	Biodiversity	-	?	?	-
<i>Cervus nippon</i>	Sika deer	Biodiversity	-	Control	Yes	Pet trade Hunting Consumption
<i>Corvus splendens</i>	Indian house crow	Biodiversity	Agriculture Electric wires	Control	Yes	-
<i>Crassula helmsii</i>	Australian swamp stonecrop	Biodiversity Recreation	-	Pathway	Yes	Horticulture
<i>Crepidula fornicata</i>	Slipper Limpet	Biodiversity	-	?	?	-
<i>Didemnum vexillum</i>	Carpet Sea-squirt	Biodiversity	-	Biofouling meas.?	?	-
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Water hyacinth	Biodiversity Drainage	Health Economy	Control	Yes	Horticulture
<i>Eriocheir sinensis</i>	Chinese mitten crab	(biodiversity)	Fishing equipment Infrastructure	Control	?	Consumption
<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese knotweed	Biodiversity	Infrastructure	pathway mgt	Yes	Horticulture Bio energy
<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	Japanese knotweed	Biodiversity	Infrastructure	Pathway mgt	Yes	Horticulture Bio energy
<i>Heracleum persicum</i>	Persian hogweed	Biodiversity, Erosion	Skin irritation	Control	Yes	Horticulture
<i>Heracleum sosnowskyi</i>	Sosnowski's hogweed	Biodiversity Erosion	Skin irritation	Control	Yes	Horticulture

<i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	Floating pennywort	Biodiversity Recreation Drainage	-	Control	Yes	Horticulture
<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	Curly waterweed	Biodiversity Recreation Drainage	-	Pathway mgt	Yes	Horticulture
<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>	North American bullfrog	Biodiversity	-	Control	Yes	Consumption
<i>Ludwigia grandiflora</i>	Water-primrose	Biodiversity Recreation Drainage	-	Control	Yes	Horticulture
<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>	Floating primrose-willow	Biodiversity Recreation Drainage	-	Control	Yes	Horticulture
<i>Lysichiton americanus</i>	Am. skunk cabbage	Biodiversity	-	Control	Yes	Horticulture
<i>Muntiacus reevesii</i>	Muntjac deer	Biodiversity	-	Control	Yes	Hunting
<i>Myocastor coypus</i>	Coypu	Biodiversity	Agriculture	Control	Yes	Consumption
<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	Monk parakeet	Biodiversity	Agriculture Electr, Health	Control	Yes	Pet trade
<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	Parrot's feather	Biodiversity Recreation Drainage	-	Pathway mgt	Yes	Horticulture
<i>Orconectes limosus</i>	Spiny-cheek Crayfish	Biodiversity Fisheries	Fishing equipment	Pathway mgt	Yes	Consumption Aquaria
<i>Orconectes virilis</i>	Virile Crayfish	Biodiversity Fisheries	Fishing equipment	Pathway mgt	Yes	Consumption Aquaria
<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	Ruddy duck	Biodiversity	-	Control	Yes	Pet trade
<i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i>	Signal Crayfish	Biodiversity Fisheries	Fishing equipment	Pathway mgt	Yes	Consumption
<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>	Whitetop Weed	Biodiversity	Skin irritation Agriculture	Control Pathway	Yes	-
<i>Persicaria perfoliata</i>	Asiatic tearthumb	Biodiversity	-	Pathway mgt	Yes	-
<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>	New Zealand Mudsail	Biodiversity	-	Pathway Ballastw Aquacult	?	-
<i>Procambarus clarkii</i>	Red Swamp Crayfish	Biodiversity Fisheries	Fishing equipment	Pathway mgt	Yes	Consumption
<i>Procambarus spp.</i>	Marbled Crayfish	Biodiversity Fisheries	Fishing equipment	Pathway mgt	Yes	Consumption Ornamental
<i>Procyon lotor</i>	Raccoon	(biodiversity)	Disease Damage	Pathway mgt	Yes	Hunting Pet trade
<i>Pseudorasbora parva</i>	Stone moroko	Biodiversity	-	Pathway mgt	Yes	Pet trade Bait
<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Rose-ringed parakeet	Biodiversity	Agriculture Disease	Control Pathway	Yes	Pet trade Zoos

<i>Pueraria lobata</i>	Kudzu Vine	Biodiversity		Control	Yes	Horticulture
<i>Rapana venosa</i>	Rapa Whelk	Biodiversity		Pathway	?	Aquaria
<i>Sargassum muticum</i>	Japweed, wireweed	Biodiversity Recreation	Fishing equipment	Pathway mgt	No	-
<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	American Grey Squirrel	Biodiversity Forestry		Control	Yes	-
<i>Senecio inaequidens</i>	Narrow-leaved ragwort	(Biodiversity)	Animal husbandry	?	?	
<i>Sicyos angulatus</i>	Star-cucumber	(Biodiversity)	Agriculture	Control	?	-
<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	Silver-leaved Nightshade		Agriculture	Control	No	-
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>		(biodiversity)	Agriculture	Control	No	-
<i>Tamias sibiricus</i>	Siberian chipmunk	(biodiversity)	-	Control	Yes	Pet trade
<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	Sacred ibis	Biodiversity	-	Control	Yes	Zoos Pet trade
<i>Vespa velutina</i>	Asian hornet	(Biodiversity) (pollination)	(Stinging) (Beekeeping)	Removing nests	Yes?	-

Additional species that were discussed were the remaining species listed under the Wildlife Trade Regulation, 2 species for which BE submitted a risk assessment and 3 species for which UK indicated that they are nearing finalization. The outcome of the assessment is summarized in the table below:

		A Art 4.3.c-d Impact BD / ESS	B Art 4.3.c-d Impact Health / econ	C Art 4.3.e Effective measures	D Art 4.6 Cost- effective measures	E Art 4.6 Socio- economic benefits
<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	Painted turtle	(Biodiversity)	-	yes	yes	
<i>Egeria densa</i>	Brazilian waterweed	Biodiversity Recreation Drainage	-	yes	yes	Aquaria
<i>Homarus americanus</i>	American lobster	Biodiversity Fisheries	Fishing equipment infrastructure	yes	yes	Consumption
<i>Orconectes rusticus</i>	Rusty crayfish	Biodiversity Fisheries	Fishing equipment infrastructure	yes	yes	Aquaria
<i>Percottus glenii</i>	Chinese sleeper (fish)	Biodiversity	-	yes	yes	Aquaria?
<i>Sciurus niger</i>	fox squirrel	Biodiversity Forestry	-	yes	yes	Pet trade

<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>	<i>red-eared slider</i>	<i>Biodiversity</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	
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COM informed that this feedback would be presented to the Committee the next day.

7. AOB

COM finally informed on the next steps in the procedure. The legal deadlines arising from Regulation 1143/2014 for the Commission and the Member States as well as the dates of the next meetings were presented.

Members of the scientific forum were invited to submit further comments on the above table, including information on risk management by 8 May, and to submit additional risk assessments by 15 May.

COM would informally share with the Committee the draft list of IAS of Union concern that would go in interservice consultation and WTO-notification. The official consultation of the MS will take place in November at the Committee meeting.

Annex 1

List of participants

MS	Member State authority & Individual Representative
AT	Federal Environment Agency
BE	Belgian Biodiversity Platform - Belgian Science Policy Office
BG	Ministry of Environment and Water
CY	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
CZ	Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic
DE	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz, BfN)
DK	The Nature Agency - Danish Ministry of Environment
EE	Estonian Ministry of the Environment
ES	Centro Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)
FI	Natural Resources Institute Finland
FR	Ministère de l'écologie, du développement durable et de l'énergie
HR	State Institute for Nature Protection
HU	Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Nature Conservation
IE	The National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Art, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
IT	ISPRA Institute for Environmental Protection and Research
LT	Nature Research Centre
LU	Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures - Administration de la nature et des forêts
LV	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia
NL	The State of the Netherlands, Ministerie van Economische Zaken - Directie Natuur en Biodiversiteit
PL	Ministry of the Environment
PT	Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas / Institute for Nature Conservation and Forestry (ICNF)
RO	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
SE	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
SI	Zavod Republike Slovenije za varstvo narave / Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation

SK	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
UK	APHA - GB Non-Native Species Secretariat

List of participants – European Commission

- DG Environment, Unit B.2
- Joint Research Centre, Unit H.1