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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

33<sup>rd</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 3-6 December 2013

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**Implementation of Recommendation No. 154 (2011)  
on the European Code of Conduct on Pets  
and Invasive Alien Species**

**REPORTS BY THE PARTIES**

*Memorandum drawn up by  
the Directorate of Democratic Governance  
The document is being circulated in the form and the languages in which it was received by the  
Secretariat*

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la Direction de la Gouvernance démocratique  
Le document apparaît sous la forme et rédigé tel qu'il a été reçu au Secrétariat*

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## AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN

### INTRODUCED AND INVASIVE SPECIES

There are several notable species that are considered to be invasive in Azerbaijan. One of the most notable is the comb jelly *Mnemiopsis leidyi* - an introduced species that invaded the Caspian through the Volga Don channel. Its population has now multiplied to the extent that the biomass of the population has exceeded the general productive biomass of the sea. There are no predators for this jelly in the Caspian, and climatic conditions favour its growth and reproduction. It feeds on animal plankton, including the planktonic larvae of fish, and as such, it is capable of seriously undermining economically and biologically important fish populations. This could also impact the rest of the food chain, as top predators, such as the Caspian seal and sturgeon species, are reliant on healthy fish populations.

Of the 21 introduced samples of the invasive species American racoon (*Procyon lotor*), ten males and eleven females were released in the Ismayilli region in 1941 from where they have spread to other regions of the Republic. They are now widely spread throughout the forest ecosystems of Azerbaijan, and hunting of this species is encouraged throughout the year.

Regarding plants adventitious weedery such as ambrosia artemisiifolia L, cuscuts L., acroptilon repens DC., solanium rostratum Dun spreaded out in countrywide flora and squeeze out the local species seriously. Plant ambrosia artemisiifolia L is widely spread in North Caucasus. Local people who had been aware of this plant as a quarantine weed since ancient times clean it throughout all areas massively in spring months of every year. Pollens of this plant lead to death of children under 10 age by splashing into their throats and cause illness of adults by infection.

One of adventitious species which causes huge damage to greenery of nature and agrobiocenoses in Azerbaijan, is American white butterfly. Dissemination of this species becomes more hazardous year by year in enduring all preventive control actions.

**LIECHTENSTEIN / LIECHTENSTEIN**

AMT FÜR UMWELT  
PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Council of Europe  
Véronique de Cussac  
Bern Convention  
Biodiversity Unit  
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

Your letter  
05.07.2013

Reference  
9383

Contact  
muol

Vaduz  
28.8.2013

**Follow-up of Recommendation No. 154 (2011) in Liechtenstein**

Dear Ms. de Cussac

The Principality of Liechtenstein and the Swiss Confederation form a customs union in accordance with their Customs Treaty of 29 March 1923. Because Liechtenstein has no airport, all imported goods have to pass the Swiss border first. Swiss customs officers inspect imported goods and are allowed to confiscate illegally imported plants and animals. If officers are not able to identify the species without doubt, they are obliged to contact the Food and Veterinary Office for help. If wood is delivered from Asia without being checked at any other EU border, the customs officers call the Office of Environment to inspect the delivery for specimens of *Anoplophora glabripennis*.

In Liechtenstein (and also Switzerland) the handling with invasive alien species is regulated by law (Freisetzungsverordnung, LGBl 2011 Nr. 90). Furthermore, Liechtenstein has a law on the protection of Nature and Landscape (LGBl 1996 Nr. 117), which prohibits seeding alien plant species.

Additionally, Liechtenstein started to monitor the spread of invasive alien plant species, using a GIS-based program, this year.

For further questions please contact me by e-mail ([oliver.mueller@llv.li](mailto:oliver.mueller@llv.li)).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'O. Müller'.

Oliver Müller  
Head of Bureau Nature and Landscape

## **SERBIA / SERBIE**

### **REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION NO 154 (2011) ON THE EUROPEAN CODE OF CONDUCT ON PETS AND INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES IN SERBIA**

Implementation of the Recommendation No 154 (2011) on the European Code of Conduct on Pets and Invasive Alien Species in Serbia integrates into policy, strategies and legislation frame including obligations taken under all relevant international agreements and international documents, as per proposal of the Institute and other competent and scientific institutions in collaboration with the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.

With this regard, several important projects have been started and are established or they are in progress to develop monitoring and research on Invasive Alien Species in Serbia.

#### **1. The Current Legal Framework has provided a base for taking measures to implement this recommendation, as follows:**

- The National Strategy on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Goods (2012-2019)
- The National Environmental Protection Programme (2010-2019)
- The Strategy on Biological Diversity of the Republic of Serbia (2011-2018)
- The Law on Nature Protection ("Official Gazette of RS", No 36/09, 88/2010 and 91/2010-corr)
- The Law on Plant Protection Products ("Official Gazette of RS", 41/09)
- The Law on Forest ("Official Gazette of RS", No 30//10)
- The Law on Game and Hunting ("Official Gazette of RS", No 18/2010)
- The Law on Protection and Sustainable Use of Fish Stock ("Official Gazette of RS", No 36/09)
- The Law on Cattle Breeding ("Official Gazette of RS", No 41/09, 93/12)
- The Animal Welfare ("Official Gazette of RS", No 41/09)
- Rulebook on programme of the plant protection measures in Serbia (2010-2013)
- Rulebook on the list of harmful organisms and lists of plants, plant production and regulated objects ("Official Gazette of RS", No 7/10),

1.1. The Strategy on Biological Diversity of the Republic of Serbia and Action Plan (2011-2018) was identified administrative, scientific and technical activities in Action Plan on Managing Threatening Processes including:

-Identification indicators for monitoring the status of Alien species and their impacts on biological diversity,

-Development of biological and other methods for the control and eradication of Alien species of concern,

-Establishment of control over exotic species breeding centres, implement the marking of animals and ban the entry of exotic species that can become invasive, and

-Establishment of Alien species warning system and procedures for responding to threats caused by such species.

1.2. According to Law on Nature Protection, Article 82 regulates Introduction of Alien Species which transposed Bern Convention on this issue, as follows:

Introduction of Alien Species and hybrids there of into free nature on the territory of the Republic of Serbia is prohibited. Alien species that by introduction and/or spreading endanger other species and overall biodiversity on the territory of the Republic of Serbia shall be declared as invasive by the Ministry, based on acknowledged international criteria, scientific findings and obligations taken under international agreements and international documents, as per proposal of the Institute and other competent and scientific institutions, upon obtaining the opinion of the ministry responsible for agriculture, forestry and water management. The document shall stipulate actions to control and combat invasive alien species.

In addition, in this Article regulates that introduction of Alien Species and hybrids shall be permitted if scientifically and professionally proven and acceptable from the aspect of nature protection and sustainable management, i.e. if such introduction does not endanger natural habitat of autochthonous wild species. The Ministry shall issue the permit on the basis of the Acceptability Study and Nature Impact Assessment Study, with the approval of the Ministry responsible for agriculture, forestry and water management.

Introduction of Alien Species in controlled conditions shall be possible on the basis of permit issued by the Ministry through a ruling, upon previously obtained opinion from the Institute or other authorised scientific and professional organisation, expressing that there is no danger for Alien Species in case of accidental or intentional escape of specimens into the free nature of the Republic of Serbia.

1.3. According to Article 35 of the Law on Nature Protection introduction of invasive alien species in Protected Areas prohibited.

## **2. Results of the recent observation and research activities in the field of invasive alien species in Serbia**

Information on non-native and invasive species is available through data from scientific and research activities. Organized mapping of these species in the Republic of Serbia is initiated by the Ministry of Agricultural, Forestry and Water Management projects on mapping and monitoring of invasive species in agro-ecosystems and the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia and Provincial Institute of Nature Conservation in Vojvodina on mapping certain invasive species habitats, mainly plants.

### **Several Scientific research results established on this issue, as following:**

2.1. Predrag Lazarević MSc, Verica Stojanović MSc, Ivana Jelić MSc, Biljana Krsteski, Rastko Ajtić MSc, Nenad Sekulić, Saša Branković MSc, Goran Sekulić, Vladan Bjedov Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia, and Ranko Perić, Provincial Institute for Nature Conservation in Vojvodina, A preliminary list of invasive species in Serbia, with general measures of controls and reduction as a basis of future legal acts established, Journal of the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia, Protection of Nature 62/1 ISSN 0514 5899 UDK: 202/504, page 5-32

This paper intends to provide a preliminary list of invasive species of plants, fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals for the purpose of drafting a corresponding regulation by the Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial planning. Besides species lists, this paper also presents general measures of control and reduction of invasive species.

The authors of this paper believe that future legislative solutions presented in this paper should be a good basis for active measures against invasive alien species, that the proposed general measures are relevant on the national level, but also in accordance with regional, European and worldwide practice in dealing with this issue.

2.2. Knowledge of alien species in Europe has been achieved by the DAISIE (Delivering Alien Invasive Species Inventories for Europe) project. As Serbian Scientists Ms R. Petanovic and Ms O. Petrovic-Obradovic have participated in this project and published some results,

-Maria Navajas, Alain Migeon, Agustin Estrada-Peña, Anne-Catherine Mailleux, Pablo Servigne & Radmila Petanović (2010): Mites and ticks (Acari). **Chapter 7.4**. In *Terrestrial invertebrate invasions in Europe*. In A. Roques, J.Y. Rasplus, C. Lopez-Vaamonde, W. Rabitsch, M. Kenis & W. Nentwig Eds. BioRisk 4(1): 149-192. doi: [10.3897/biorisk.4.58](https://doi.org/10.3897/biorisk.4.58)

-Coeur d'acier A., N. Perez Hidalgo & O. Petrovic-Obradovic (2010): Aphids (Hemiptera, Aphididae). In *Terrestrial invertebrate invasions in Europe*. Chapter 9.2. In A. Roques, J.Y. Rasplus, C. Lopez-Vaamonde, W. Rabitsch, M. Kenis & W. Nentwig Eds. *BioRisk* 4(1): 435–474. doi: 10.3897/biorisk.4.57

### 3. Follow up activities

3.1. By Law on Invasive Alien Species will be established in 2014. According to Article 82 of the Law on Nature Protection,

3.2. Project “Bio-monitoring of Invasive species”

There are several grants related to monitoring some invasive agricultural pests, which could influence on native biodiversity. Invasive Alien Species (IAS) threaten biodiversity, society, human-health, well-being and the economy will provide support to a European information system for effective and informed decision-making in relation to IAS through a network of experts harmonising alien species (AS) information across Europe. Some of them are *Scaphoideus titanus* (leafhoppers North American origin – pest in vineyards), *Ceratitis capitata* (Mediterranean fruit fly), *Tuta absoluta* (Tomato leaf miner), *Drosophila suzukii* (spotted wing drosophila), *Rhagoletis completa* (walnut husk fly), *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* (chestnut gall wasp), *Diabrotica virgifera* (western corn rootworm), *Liriomyza* spp., *Bemisia* spp., *Thrips* spp.. Monitoring of alien species of aphids in Serbia is made for: *Aphis spiraecola* Patch, *Prociphilus fraxinifolii* Riley and *Cinara curvipes* (Patch), funded by the Ministry of Education and Sciences of the Republic of Serbia

3.4 Project on Monitoring invasive alien species *Scaphoideus titanus Reptalus panzeri* has been realized by the Institute for Plant Protection and Environment (Zemun-Belgrade) Department of Plant Pests which is funded by the Ministry of Science of the Republic of Serbia

According to the project of Ministry of Science we follow development of 2 invasive Cicadellidea species: *Scaphoideus titanus* of northamerican descent which transfer phytoplasma of *Flavescence doreé* to grape vines causing the significant damages in vineyards production in western Europe (France, Italy) as well as in southeastern Europe (Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia). This phytoplasma can be found on EPPO (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization) A2 list of quarantine species.

*Reptalus panzeri*, no-native european Cicadellidea species, transfer stolbur phytoplasma on maize and causes disease maize redness. Due to significant economic damages that this disease cause and it is evidently that the species is in expansion, incrising the number of the population, it was decided that the species and the disease were put on EPPO "alert" list and should be monitored.

3.5. New project for invasive species-COST Action: European Information System for Alien Species

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) threaten biodiversity, society, human-health, well-being and the economy. This COST Action will facilitate enhanced knowledge gathering and sharing, to provide support to a European information system for effective and informed decision-making in relation to IAS through a network of experts harmonising alien species (AS) information across Europe. O. Petrovic-Obradovic and M. Glavendekic are members of MC of the Project.

3.6. Monitoring of alien species of aphids in Serbia is made for: *Aphis spiraecola* Patch, *Prociphilus fraxinifolii* Riley and *Cinara curvipes* (Patch).

### REFERENCES:

- The Strategy on Biological Diversity of the Republic of Serbia (2011-2018)
- The Law on Nature Protection ("Official Gazette of RS", No 36/09 , 88/2010 and 91/2010-corr)
- Report on a preliminary list of invasive species in Serbia, with general measures of controls and reduction as a basis of future legal acts established by the Institute of Nature conservation of Serbia
- Report on monitoring made by the Institute for Plant Protection and Environment, Department of Plant Pests (Zemun-Belgrade), J.Jovic, e-mail: [jovic\\_biolab@yahoo.com](mailto:jovic_biolab@yahoo.com)

- Report on scientific project results made by Faculty of Biology, Belgrade University, Z. Tomanovic, e-mail: [ztoman@bio.bg.ac.rs](mailto:ztoman@bio.bg.ac.rs)
- Maria Navajas, Alain Migeon, Agustin Estrada-Peña, Anne-Catherine Mailleux, Pablo Servigne & Radmila Petanović (2010): Mites and ticks (Acari). **Chapter 7.4.** In *Terrestrial invertebrate invasions in Europe*. In A. Roques, J.Y. Rasplus, C. Lopez-Vaamonde, W. Rabitsch, M. Kenis & W. Nentwig Eds. *BioRisk* 4(1): 149-192. doi: 10.3897/biorisk.4.58
- Coeur d'acier A., N. Perez Hidalgo & O. Petrovic-Obradovic (2010): Aphids (Hemiptera, Aphididae). In *Terrestrial invertebrate invasions in Europe*. Chapter 9.2. In A. Roques, J.Y. Rasplus, C. Lopez-Vaamonde, W. Rabitsch, M. Kenis & W. Nentwig Eds. *BioRisk* 4(1): 435–474. doi: 10.3897/biorisk.4.57

Prepared by Snezana Prokic,  
Focal Point for Bern Convention

Belgrade, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

## SPAIN / ESPAGNE

### FOLLOW-UP OF RECOMMENDATION NO. 154 (2011) ON THE EUROPEAN CODE OF CONDUCT ON PETS AND INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Information on each of the three paragraphs of the above mentioned Recommendation to be submitted to the Standing Committee for information at its 33rd meeting.

**1. Take the European Code of Conduct mentioned above into account while drawing up other relevant codes - or where appropriate - draw up national codes of conduct on pets and IAS;**

The action A.7 of the Life Project INVASEP- LIFE 10 NAT/ES/000582 includes the development of a Code of Conduct on Pets and Invasive Alien Species. This action is being carried out at this moment and it is planned to finalise by June 2014.

Draft documents are prepared for the coming meeting with the industry, if possible, during next November. In the elaboration of this draft document the European Code of Conduct, developed within Bern Convention, has been a really good example.

The final document of this LIFE project should be getting on the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment Web Page when finalise.

**2. Collaborate as appropriate with the private sector involved in breeding, import and trade of pets in implementing and helping disseminate good practices and codes of conduct aimed at preventing entry, release and spread of invasive alien species;**

Some Spanish Associations of Pet Product Distributors including manufacturers, distributors and wholesalers of products and accessories for pets, as well as live animal importers have been contacted during the elaboration of the Spanish National Act for the Spanish Catalogue on Invasive Alien Species (*Real Decreto 630/2013, de 2 de agosto, por el que se regula el catálogo y listado de especies exóticas invasoras*: <http://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2013/08/03/pdfs/BOE-A-2013-8565.pdf>).

As mentioned in the point one, they will be contacted for the elaboration of the National Code of Conduct on Pets and Invasive Alien Species during the end of 2013 and the beginning of 2014.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment together with other public administrations and different stakeholders has participate in the some Expert Meeting on Invasive Alien Species hold by WWF-Spain and Madrid Regional Community. The pet industry has been represented in these meetings.

**3. Keep the Standing Committee informed of measures taken to implement this recommendation.**

As far as possible we will try to keep informed the Standing Committee.

## SWITZERLAND / SUISSE

### FOLLOW-UP OF RECOMMENDATION NO. 154 (2011) ON THE EUROPEAN CODE OF CONDUCT ON PETS AND INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

By Dr. Gian-Reto Walther, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland

According to the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA; <http://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/19660144/index.html>), the establishment of animals and plants of species, subspecies and breeds not native to the country or site shall be subject to approval by the Federal Council (Art. 23 NCHA). With regard to alien species, the revised Ordinance on the Release of Organisms into the Environment (<http://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/20062651/index.html>) is in force since October 2008. In addition, other federal ordinances such as the Ordinance on Hunting and the Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (<http://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/19880042/index.html>) and the Ordinance on the Federal Act on Fish and Fishery (<http://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/19930332/index.html>) include regulations for non-native species, especially birds, mammals, fish and crustacean. In their annexes, these ordinances list alien species, that are not accepted in the wild and to be controlled by cantonal authorities. With these regulations a legal framework has been established that tackles the issues of invasive alien species including alien pets and, thus, the Recommendation on the European Code of Conduct on Pets and Invasive Alien Species in a legally binding way.

On 25 April 2012, the Federal Council adopted the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy. The strategy was published in German, French and Italian. An english translation for information purposes only and with no legal force is provided at: <http://www.bafu.admin.ch/publikationen/publikation/01660/index.html?lang=en>

The overall objective “*Biodiversity is rich and has the capacity to react to change. Biodiversity and its ecosystem services are conserved in the long term*” shall be achieved through the implementation of the ten strategic goals. Invasive alien species are included in the strategic goal 3, stating that: “*The spread of invasive alien species with the potential to cause damage is contained.*” This strategic goal together with the obligations from international conventions (e.g. CBD) and national law provided the framework for the elaboration of a national strategy on invasive alien species. The elaboration started 2012 and included several other affected federal agencies, the cantons, and representatives from (scientific) institutions and private organisations, the latter includes e.g. the national association of zoological specialist stores (<http://www.vzfs.ch/>). The national strategy on invasive alien species formulates targets with regard to basic principles, prevention and control and a catalogue of measures on how to meet these targets, and should be further developed in the course of 2014.