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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

34th meeting
Strasbourg, 2-5 December 2014

Possible File

**POSSIBLE SPREAD OF THE AMERICAN MINK
(*NEOVISON VISON*)
IN POLAND**

REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT

*Document prepared by
The General Directorate for Environmental Protection, Poland*

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**GENERALNA DYREKCJA OCHRONY ŚRODOWISKA**

Departament Zarządzania Zasobami Przyrody

DZP-WG.605.05.2.2014.km.2

Warsaw, on July, 2014

**Council of Europe
Secretariat General
Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife
and Natural Habitats**

In response to your letter of 6 May, 2014, ref. no.: DG-II Ida/vdc, concerning the breach of the Bern Convention provisions by failure to include the American mink (*Neovison vison*) into the Ordinance of the Minister of Environment of 9 September, 2011 on the list of non-native plants and animals that might endanger native species and habitats when released to the wild (Journal of Laws No. 210, item 1260) (possible file: follow-up to the complaint N° 2012/3: possible spread of the American mink *Neovison vison* in Poland), -the General Directorate for Environmental Protection provides hereby information obtained from the Ministry of Environment as the authority competent for current amendment of the Ordinance referred to above.

In the course of works on amendment of the Ordinance referred to above, intensive arrangements were carried out between the Ministries of Environment and of Agriculture on including the American mink into the list of non-native plants and animals that might endanger native species and habitats when released to the wild. The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development obliged himself to improve the standards of American mink farms operation in Poland, including animal breeding conditions. In addition, the decision on commencement of works on the Ordinance of the Council of Ministers of 9 November, 2010 on types of projects likely to have a significant impact on the environment (Journal of Laws No. 2013, item 1397, as amended), making carrying-out of the environmental impact assessment mandatory for the mink farms of minimum stocking density.

With regard to the above, inclusion of American mink into the list non-native plants and animals that might endanger native species and habitats when released to the wild was withdrawn.

At the same time it should be emphasized that the EU has been currently finalizing its works on proposal for a regulation on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species COM (2013) 620. The consequence of entry of this regulation into force shall be preparation of the list of invasive species at the EU level, into which the American mink will be most probably included. Also, it should be remembered that the provisions of the Bern Convention do not provide for an obligation to include the invasive species into the national lists. When referring to spread of the American mink in Poland it should be noted that research and eradication of this species are covered by measures allocated from various funds and supplemented by implementation of specific actions.