

Strasbourg, 29 October 2015  
[files55e\_2015.docx]

T-PVS/Files (2015) 55

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

35<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2015

---

**Possible File**

**Possible spread of the American mink  
(*Neovison vison*) in Poland**

**REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT**

*Document prepared by  
The Ministry of the Environment, Poland*

**GENERALNA DYREKCJA OCHRONY ŚRODOWISKA****Departament Zarządzania Zasobami Przyrody**

DZP-WG.605.05. .2015.ep

Warszawa,

2015

**Ms Ivana d'Alesandro**  
**Head of the Biodiversity Unit**  
**Convention on the Conservation**  
**of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats**  
**Secretariat General**  
**Council of Europe**

In response to your letter of 30 September, 2015, ref. no.: DG-II Ida/vdc, concerning the possible file: "follow-up to the complaint No 2012/3: possible spread of the American mink (*Neovison vison*) in Poland" by failure to include the American mink 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), the General Directorate for Environmental Protection provides hereby information, accepted by the Minister of Environment as the authority competent for current amendment of the Ordinance referred to above.

- 1) We would like to inform that the Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 28 June, 2010 *on minimum conditions on keeping livestock species other than these, for which the protection standards are laid down in the provisions of the European Union* (Journal of Laws No. 116, item 778), was amended in 2015. Due to this amendment the following requirements were introduced in order to minimize the risk of escapes of American mink from farms to nature:
  - protection of the farm area with a double fence, one of the fences should be without holes, minimum 2 m high, and the second fence should be made from net or other material resistant to chewing through by American minks, with holes of diameter preventing them to escape, and dug into the ground to 50 cm;
  - a live trap should be located in every corner of the internal fence and checked minimum once a day.
- 2) The legislation process on amendment of 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, is still under way.
- 3) It should be noticed that the Commission has been currently finalizing its works on proposal for a list of invasive alien species of Union concern pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014. The American mink will be most probably not included in the list, because not all Member States approve it.

- 4) The decision of adding American mink to 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* will be taken after adopting the list of IAS of Union concern, because at this moment it is not definitively concluded if the population of this species will be controlled in the whole EU. 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.
- 5) 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.

Having regard to the amendment of the Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 28 June, 2010 *on minimum conditions on keeping livestock species other than these, for which the protection standards are laid down in the provisions of the European Union*, we ask for rejecting the complaint.