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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

33rd meeting
Strasbourg, 3-6 December 2013

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ON THE EUROPEAN
GUIDELINES ON PROTECTED AREAS AND INVASIVE
ALIEN SPECIES**

*Document
prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Governance*



Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Draft Recommendation No. ... (2013) of the Standing Committee, examined on 6 December 2013, on the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and Invasive Alien Species

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aim of the Convention which is notably to ensure the conservation of wild flora and fauna, by giving particular attention to species, including migratory species, which are threatened with extinction and vulnerable;

Recalling that under Article 11, paragraph 2.b of the Convention, each Contracting Party undertakes to strictly control the introduction of non-native species;

Recalling Decision VI/23 of the 6th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, and the definitions used in that text, as well as the conservation guidelines of the Africa-Eurasian Migratory Waterfowl Agreement;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 99 (2003) on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species;

Recalling that the 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with its 20 headline Aichi targets for 2020, in particular Target 9 devoted to invasive alien species (IAS): “By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment”;

Welcoming the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020, adopted by the Council of the European Union in June 2011, and in particular its Target 5, calling on Member States to combat IAS so that by 2020, IAS and their pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and pathways are managed to prevent the introduction and establishment of new IAS;

Welcoming the efforts of States to build sound ecological networks in the framework of the Convention and the Council Directive 92/43/33C on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, in particular the Emerald Network and the Natura 2000 Network;

Conscious that protected areas are indeed very appropriate places where to study, control and contain the spread of invasive alien species;

Referring to the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and Invasive Alien Species [document T-PVS/Inf (2013) 22];

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. draw up national strategies to control invasive alien species in protected areas, in particular there where endangered native flora and/or fauna may be at risk from such alien species; take into account in that context of the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and Invasive Alien Species mentioned above;

2. instruct managers of protected areas and other appropriate conservation staff to collaborate in the tasks involved in monitoring, control and containment of invasive alien species, making sure that management plans take due account of the need to deal with invasive alien species in protected areas;
3. keep the Standing Committee informed of measures taken to implement this recommendation;

Invites Observer States to take note of this recommendation and implement it as appropriate.