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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

34th meeting
Strasbourg, 2-5 December 2014

**Select Group of Experts
on Invasive Alien Species**

(Rome, 7 March 2014)

- SUMMARY OF MAIN CONCLUSIONS -

*Report prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Governance*

Meeting of the Select Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species

(Rome, Italy, 7 March 2014)

SUMMARY OF MAIN CONCLUSIONS

The meeting was held at Palazzo Cenci-Bolognetti (Rome, Italy) on 7th March 2014. The list of attendees and draft agenda are in appendices 1 and 2 to this summary.

CODES OF CONDUCT AND GUIDELINES

The Select Group discussed the use of adopted Codes and those in preparation:

- **The Code of Conduct on Recreational Fishing and IAS** has been widely circulated to governments and experts. The Group recommended that the Code be completed with more case-studies from continental Europe. A new version will be produced by June so it may be presented to the Standing Committee for possible endorsement in December 2014;
- **Communication of existing codes and guidelines.** This is perceived as a priority:
 - The Code of Conduct for **Botanical Gardens on IAS** has been published, widely distributed to European Botanic Gardens and is now the base for a global Code of Conduct for Botanical Gardens on IAS done by BGCI and ISSG.
 - The Code of Conduct on **Zoos, Aquaria and IAS** needs to be more widely widespread with the help of zoos and aquaria, exploiting their great capacity for awareness with the public. The Secretariat and ISSG will contact EAZA to look for a partnership for dissemination of the Code.
 - The Code of Conduct on **Pets and IAS** is still unpublished, even if OATA (Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association) and REPTA (Reptile and Exotic Pet Trade Association) have jointly launched a shorter version (Pet Code of Practice on responsible ownership) aimed at “helping to prevent the spread of invasive non-native species”.
 - The Code Conduct on **Hunting and IAS**, adopted in November 2013 is still unpublished. Secretariat and ISSG to contact FACE to look for possible partnership for publication and dissemination to hunters.
 - The Guidelines on **Protected Areas and IAS**, adopted in November 2013 are still unpublished. Secretariat and ISSG will contribute to their presentation at the World Park Congress and look for ways to publish them.
- **Possible new Codes of Conduct:**
 - ✓ European Code of Conduct on plantation forestry;
 - ✓ European Code of Conduct on recreational boating and aquatic sports.

The Group thought it would be worth to have a look at the impact of planting alien melliferous plants by beekeepers.

COMMUNICATION ON IAS-RELATED ISSUES

The Group was informed on the success of the workshop on “Communicating Pest and IAS Issues” co-organised by EPPO and the Convention and agreed the Convention should continue to work with the scientific community interested on IAS to improve their communication on IAS (training, case-studies, etc.). The Secretariat will contact EPPO and other partners to further such work.

The Convention needs to better define the targets for communication and the messages for each of the pathways dealt with in the different Codes of Conduct/Guidelines.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ROLE OF THE CONVENTION IN RELATION TO THE NEW EU REGULATION

All information available pointed in the direction of the adoption by the EU of a new regulation on IAS in the next months.

The Convention will closely follow the progress of negotiations and, when the text is adopted, it will commission a legal study on the possible role of the Convention to further innovations with non-EU Parties, participate as appropriate in European IAS information systems and other issues (dealing with pathways, etc.). At the right moment the Secretariat will contact the EC to search appropriate synergies and collaboration.

NEXT MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS 2015

The meeting could be organised in May/June 2015. The Secretariat will contact Slovenia to see a possible hosting at the Triglav National Park.

RUDDY DUCK ERADICATION – OTHER SPECIES REQUIRING ATTENTION

The Secretariat informed of results of the side-event held in November 2013 (which had shown some modest results from France and inaction from the Netherlands). The Convention will continue to be involved in the monitoring of the implementation of the Action plan to eradicate ruddy ducks from Europe.

OTHER TOPICS

The Convention will contribute to SBSTTA on Codes of Conduct on Pets, on Zoos and Aquaria and on Pathways (criteria for use at regional level).

The Group recommended the Convention to assess the problem of feral goats and feral sheep in Mediterranean and Macaronesian islands.

THANKS!

The Group unanimously thanked Piero Genovesi and Scot Schlimgen (Academic Initiatives Abroad) for the excellent organisation and great hospitality.

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Appendix 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Appendix 2



CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL HABITATS

Meeting of the Select Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species

Rome (Italy), 7 March 2014 (start 9.30 am)

AGENDA

Meeting place :Palazzo Cenci-Bolognetti, Piazza delle Cinque Scole, 23, Rome 00186, Italy

1. Codes of Conduct:

Code of Conduct on Recreational Fishing and IAS [document T-PVS/Inf (2013) 1]
Communication of the Codes
Choice of future codes

2. Communicating IAS-related issues

3. Possible future role of Bern in relation to the new EU regulation

4. Organisation of 2015 meeting of the Group of Experts

5. Ruddy duck eradication + other problem species requiring attention

6. Other topics

Contribution to SBSTTA
Feral goats in Mediterranean and Macaronesian Islands