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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

32nd meeting
Strasbourg, 27-30 November 2012

**Implementation of Recommendation No. 141 (2009)
on potentially invasive alien plants being used as biofuel crops**

REPORTS BY THE PARTIES

*Memorandum drawn up by
the Directorate of Democratic Governance, Culture and Diversity
The document is being circulated in the form and the languages in which it was received by the
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ALBANIA / ALBANIE



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND WATER ADMINISTRATION
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF POLICIES
Biodiversity Directorate

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Tirana, on 13.10.2012

Contribution of Albania to the implementation of Recommendation no. 141 (2009) of the Standing Committee on potentially invasive alien plants being used as bio-fuel crops

Regarding the Recommendation no. 141 (2009) of the Standing Committee of 26.11.2009, on potentially invasive alien plants being used as bio-fuel crops, in Albania this issue is very little known and therefore is not subject of any proposals and/or development so far.

Moreover, Albania has an action plan approved in 2007, on invasive alien species and a Government Decree of March 2009 which prohibits any kind of introduction into the country and the use of the invasive alien plant species for any purpose. In case a proposal comes forward this needs to be addressed by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration that issues a special permit.

Biodiversity Directorate

General Directorate of Policies

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration

AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAIDJAN

There is no experience on the field of potentially invasive alien plants being used as biofuel crops in Azerbaijan.

BULGARIA / BULGARIE

NATIONAL REPORT ON POTENTIALLY INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS BEING USED AS BIOFUEL CROPS 2012 (BULGARIA)

In pursuance of Recommendation 119 (2006) of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention, Bulgaria provides the information following below:

DIRECTIVES, STRATEGY PLANS, PROGRAMS

Directive 2009/28/EC sets up clear sustainable criteria for the production of biofuels. These standards are related to biodiversity, protection of rare, threatened or endangered species and ecosystems.

Energy Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria 2020

Energy Strategy has been developed by the Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism and endorsed by the Council of Ministers, pursuant to art. 4, para.2, item 1 of the Energy Act and accepted by the 41-th National Assembly on 1 June 2011. Energy Strategy is a key document of the national energy policy and reflects the political vision of the Government of Bulgaria in line with current European framework for energy policy and global trends in energy technology. The Strategy has set a national target of 16% share of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption by 2020, including a mandatory 10% share of renewable energy in transport. It has been represented a policy which will provide the necessary conditions for sustainable development of renewable energy sector in Bulgaria and reaching and over-reaching the national target.

Draft of National Action Plan for Renewable Energy

National Action Plan for Renewable Energy (NAPRE) has been prepared pursuant to art. 4 of Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of renewable energy in accordance with art. 4, para.2, item 1 and art. 12 of the Law on Renewable Energy.

National Plan covers the period 2010 - 2020 and includes targets for the production of electricity, heating and cooling and renewable energy (RE) in transport in 2020. Is presented estimated total contribution of each technology to produce renewable energy to meet the binding 2020 targets and the indicative interim trajectory for the shares of energy from renewable sources (RS) in the transport sector during the period 2010-2020. Is foreseen in 2020 RS to provide 302 ktOE in the transport sector, of which bioethanol - 60 ktOE and biodiesel - 220 ktOE. To achieve the objectives, is provided appropriate policies and measures to promote energy production from renewable resources, taking into account the impact of energy efficiency and the introduction of energy efficient technologies.

The adoption of the National Action Plan for Renewable Energy by the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria is forthcoming.

Strategic documents in the field of forestry (National Strategy for Forest Development and Strategic Plan

They provide for encouraging the use of biomass for energy production, applying sustainable forestry schemes and conservation of natural biodiversity in forests. It is not intended introduction of new fast-growing tree species in forest areas specifically for accelerated production of biomass.

Long Term Program for biofuels for the period 2008-2020

It provides certain incentives for energy production from biomass and appropriate mechanisms

National Strategic Plan for Rural Development (2007-2013)

It provides support to production of biofuels from biomass and biogas.

LEGISLATION

Law on Renewable Energy (promulgated - SG. 35/2011), amended and supplemented. No.. 29/2012 years). One of the purposes of the Act is to promote the production and use of biofuels and

renewable energy in transport by introducing support schemes for the production and use of biofuels and renewable energy in transport.

Ordinance № RD-16-558 of 8.05.2012 on the collection and provision of information through the National Information System for the potential production and consumption of renewable energy in Bulgaria, issued by the Minister of Economy, Energy and Tourism (publ ., SG. 39 on 05/22/2012).

Ordinance № RD-16-869 of 2.08.2011 on the calculation of the share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy and the consumption of biofuels and renewable energy in transport by the Minister of Economy, Energy and Tourism (promulgated, SG. 9.09.2011 70).

Ordinance № 16-27 of 22/01/2008 laying resource assessment for the production of energy from renewable sources;

Ordinance № 16-28 from 22.01.2008 to provide information on the quantities of renewable energy and biofuels;

Forest Act (State Gazette br.19/2011, amended and supplemented. No 60 of 7.08.2012) allows plantations of trees and shrubs, designed to accelerate production of biomass, which must be managed in a specific way to suit their purpose.

INFORMATION, ANALYZES AND EVALUATIONS OF POLICIES AND MEASURES IN TERMS OF SOURCES OF BIOFUEL IS CONTAINED IN THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:

- Report on Environmental Assessment of the National Action Plan for Renewable Energy (NAPRE) considers potential impacts on environmental components in the implementation of these technologies for RES including as regards the use of biofuels in transport.
- As a key technology for the production of biofuels in the transport sector is considered the current prevailing technology for the production of bioethanol and biodiesel from oil and / or food crops (first generation biofuels). Based on these technologies have identified potential impacts associated with the production and use of biofuels. The other mentioned materials and technologies for the production of biofuels (second and third generation) are considered as possible alternatives to mitigate the negative and the positive reinforcement effects associated with implementation of measures NAPRE for biofuels in the transport sector.
- First National Report on Bulgaria's progress in the promotion and use of renewable energy was developed in December 2011 by the Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism, pursuant to art. 22 Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of renewable energy and art. 13 of the Law on Renewable Energy. The report includes a section, containing information about the estimated impacts of the production of biofuels and bioliquids on biodiversity, etc.
- The document is published on the website of the European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/reports/2011_en.htm
- Report on greenhouse gas emissions from cultivation of agricultural crops used as feedstock for biofuel production

The report was prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Water and is presented in Commission in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism, pursuant to art. 7 d, paragraph 2 of Directive 2009/30/EC as regards the specification of petrol, diesel and gas-oil and introducing a mechanism to monitor and reduce levels of greenhouse gases according to art. 19, para. 2 of Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of renewable energy.

The document is published on the website of the European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/biofuels/emissions_en.htm).

RAW MATERIALS SUITABLE FOR BIOFUEL AND BIOMASS

Raw materials are considered appropriate for output of biofuel in Bulgaria include oilseeds, cereals, sugar beets, sugar cane, fast-growing perennials, incl. tree crops with short rotation,

agricultural waste and waste from the food industry. For the production of bioethanol is mainly used beet, wheat, corn. For the production of biodiesel is mainly used sunflower and rapeseed. The prospects for biomass production are evaluated and cultures of microalgae grown under controlled conditions.

Areas necessary to achieve the required 10% biofuels in 2020 were approximately 16.6% ie 509,001 hectares of arable of land in the country, according to data from 2008 was 3,060,543 hectares. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Program for Rural Development has financed 27 projects for production of biomass crops.

Most of the foreign fast-growing tree species suitable for the production of biofuels and biomass are introduced in Bulgaria from the 19th and 20th centuries. *Robinia pseudoacacia* is widely used example of introduced tree species, growing in eroded areas. *Paulownia tomentosa*, which has limited use as a decorative tree, grown in Experimental station of farmed wood - Svishtov more than three decades. In recent years, studies carried out on 6 hybrid branch of *Paulownia elongata* x *fortunei* hybrid and three branches of *Paulownia tomentosa* x *fortunei*.

STUDIES, RELATED TO THE USE OF FAST-GROWING SPECIES OF PAULOWNIA SPP. FOR PRODUCTION OF BIOMASS

The use of wood biomass sources is one of the priorities set in the long run. Therefore, suitable for this purpose species have been studied and these studies include monitoring and risk assessment of the environment and natural ecosystems. Particular attention is directed towards the *Paulownia spp.*, which are seen as promising for mining of biomass. In this context, studies involving the use of fast-growing species of *Paulownia spp.* for biomass production is performed by the Institute of Soil Science, Agricultural Equipment and Plant Protection and Forest Research Institute, BAS. The studies are related to the adaptation of species to soil and climatic conditions of different regions of the country and evaluation of their invasiveness potential in new conditions. There are experimental areas for cultivation of *Paulownia elongata* and *P. fortunei* and their hybrids, which will be monitored for several years in order to assess the risk of invasiveness.

Ministry of Environment and Water as responsible authority for the introduction and control of new species in the country is also involved with the problem as there is still insufficient data on the behavior of species in Europe's area and at present they are regarded as potentially invasive.

New project proposal entitled "Comprehensive assessment of the potential of forest and agricultural species for energy crops in Bulgaria" was submitted for funding from Forest Research Institute - BAS to State Fund Research (competitive session 2012). The project provides risk assessment for invasiveness of *Paulownia tomentosa* for the soil - climatic conditions of Bulgaria (the species is used as an ornamental tree for several decades, but has not been studied in terms of invasiveness potential for widespread use of large areas for biomass mining).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the implementation of commitments, made by Bulgaria to achieve targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving the national target of 16% share of energy from renewable sources by 2020, biofuels and biomass, Bulgaria's policy is based on principles of sustainability and non-intentional introduction of invasive tree and shrub species for energy crops to produce biofuels.

October 2012

EUROPEAN COMMISSION / COMMISSION EUROPEENNE



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate B – Nature, Biodiversity and Land Use
ENV.B.2 –Biodiversity

Brussels, 27-06-2012
ENV/B2/MK/fb Ares(2012)
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Re: Follow-up to Recommendation No. 141 (2009) on potentially invasive alien plants being used as biofuel crops

Dear Ms d'Alessandro,

The European Commission is currently preparing a dedicated legislative instrument on invasive alien species in which it is considering measures to prevent the introduction, release and spread into the environment and to minimise the damage of invasive alien species. While no specific action is planned to deal exclusively with invasive alien biofuel crops, the dedicated instrument aims at being comprehensive and will therefore also tackle invasive alien biofuel crops.

Yours sincerely,
Marta Kaczynska

FRANCE / FRANCE

Suivi de la recommandation n°141 (2009) sur les plantes exotiques potentiellement envahissantes cultivées pour la production de biofuels

Rapport de la France au Comité permanent de la Convention de Berne

Octobre 2012

Dans ce rapport, on entendra par **biofuel** tant la production de substituts biologiques au pétrole (biocarburants) que la production de biomasse à vocation énergétique (plaquettes/déchets destinées à la combustion et production de biogaz).

En France, actuellement, les cultures dédiées aux **biocarburants** ne concernent essentiellement que la production de biocarburant "de première génération". Les biocarburants dits "de seconde génération" utilisant toute la plante sont en phase de mise au point. Pour le moment, les biocarburants sont produits quasi exclusivement par des espèces traditionnellement cultivées par l'agriculture.

A l'instar d'autres pays voisins plus avancés dans la culture pour la production de biomasse, les agriculteurs se voient proposer un choix d'espèces nouvelles principalement des ligneux ou des herbacées pérennes. Une espèce a attiré l'attention des pouvoirs publics, *Faloppia sacchalinensis* cv Igniscium, qui concerne pour le moment une seule exploitation (en Alsace). Une analyse de risque simplifiée concernant ce cultivar, a été préparée par le Laboratoire National de Protection des végétaux en 2010. Cette analyse a mis lumière un manque d'information quant au caractère non-invasif. Il est à noter que le cultivar a fait l'objet d'un dépôt de brevet et qu'aucune information précise n'est disponible à son sujet. En tout état de cause, un suivi particulier des propagules de cette espèce est réalisé par les services de l'Etat locaux.

La production de **biogaz** en est essentiellement au stade de la recherche et de la mise au point de techniques. A titre d'exemple concernant la zone méditerranéenne, la chambre d'agriculture de l'Aude a mis en place des essais de production de biomasse à partir d'un grand nombre de plantes exotiques peu connues. Un travail de caractérisation des risques et de propositions concrètes de suivi de la dissémination des propagules a été mené en 2011. Les espèces concernées sont nombreuses et la chambre d'agriculture a accepté d'intégrer ce suivi relatif aux risques d'invasion dans les protocoles d'essais, ce qui est novateur par rapport à ce qui existe ailleurs.

En matière d'atténuation du risque, des dispositions particulières sont prises : pour pouvoir bénéficier des aides financières liées à la politique agricole commune, l'une des conditions à remplir par l'agriculteur est de ne pas mettre en culture certaines espèces à proximité des cours d'eau. C'est par exemple le cas du *Miscanthus* (cf fiche BCAE jointe). Cela permet de limiter le risque de dissémination par les cours d'eau.

De manière plus générale, la surveillance du milieu naturel s'opère en continu du fait de la présence permanente d'agents de l'Etat (Office national des forêts, office national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage, office national de l'eau et des milieux aquatiques...) sur le terrain. Un dispositif spécifique de surveillance du milieu naturel vis-à-vis des invasions biologiques doit cependant prochainement être mis en place. Des dispositions spécifiques concerneront les plantes cultivées pour la production de biocarburant et la surveillance aux abords des parcelles de phénomènes invasifs. Cela sera par exemple le cas pour les variétés de *Miscanthus* utilisées pour la production de biomasse (croisement *giganteus* devant être stérile).

En matière de prévention vis-à-vis de nouvelles espèces exotiques envahissantes, la réglementation française prévoit l'interdiction d'introduction dans le milieu naturel de certaines espèces listées par arrêté (L.411-3 du code de l'environnement). Les travaux de rédaction de ces arrêtés pour les espèces végétales sont en phase finale de réalisation et un arrêté devrait voir le jour

tout début 2013. Le principe de ces listes est de définir les espèces identifiées comme présentant des risques pour le milieu naturel. La réglementation permet d'abord d'en interdire l'introduction dans le milieu naturel mais également la vente la mise en vente ou l'achat. Ces dispositions permettent donc, lors de risque avéré pour le milieu naturel, de prendre les mesures nécessaires en terme de prévention (mais également de lutte).

Note de conclusion: étant donné le contexte supra-national de la filière, il serait utile que les analyses de risque soient mutualisées ou réalisées à un niveau européen ou supérieur, tout en tenant compte, bien-sûr, des différences de conditions biogéographiques d'un pays à l'autre (et même au sein d'un même pays...) qui peuvent favoriser ou non le développement de telle ou telle espèce.

MONACO / MONACO

Suivi de la Recommandation n° 141 (2009) sur les plantes exotiques potentiellement envahissantes cultivées pour la production de biocarburants

La Principauté de Monaco n'utilise pas plantes exotiques potentiellement envahissantes cultivées pour la production de biocarburants.

UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI**Report of the United Kingdom on implementation of Recommendation No 141 (2009) of the Bern Convention Standing Committee, adopted on 26 November 2009, on potentially invasive alien plants being used as biofuel crops**

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention;

Recommends Contracting Parties to the Convention and invites Observer States to:

1. avoid the use as biofuel crops of species which are already recognised as invasive in the proposed planting region;

In Great Britain the three Administrations work collaboratively on IAS issues through the GB Non-native Species Programme Board and the Invasive Non-native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain. A parallel all-Ireland mechanism is in place. Crops for energy are subject to the normal invasive species controls in the United Kingdom. For example, incentives schemes have sustainability standards covering biofuels and biomass which receive subsidies, including safeguards against invasive species. There are no known invasive species in use as biofuel crops.

2. screen for invasiveness new species and genotypes to be used as biofuel crops, carrying out the necessary risk assessments, including risk analysis of cross-pollination with wild relatives and habitat vulnerability;

New species or varieties proposed for planting can be risk assessed using Non-native Species Risk Assessment tools and this would inform policy as to the appropriateness of the species. However, it is difficult to treat biofuel crops as a special case as some of the most significant biofuel crops in the UK, such as wheat, rapeseed and sugar beet, are primarily grown as food crops. Sale is often via a market, so their use is unlikely to be determined before onward sale.

3. monitor for possible spread of biofuel crops into natural habitats and their effects on species and habitats protected under the Convention;

There is no bespoke monitoring scheme specifically for detecting spread of biofuel crops but through general vigilance by the public and adjoining landowners, biodiversity monitoring and farm inspections etc, we would expect to become aware of any significant spread of crops used specifically for biofuels beyond the cultivated area and from under the control of the relevant grower.

4. wherever the species used as biofuel crop is proved to escape cultivation and have an effect on the natural environment, introduce appropriate mitigation measures to minimise its spread and impact on native biological diversity.

If a biofuel crop was shown to escape cultivation and threaten the ecology or local environment, England and Wales have the option to list the species, making it a criminal offence to plant or cause it to grow in the wild.

In Scotland, a plant may only be grown in the wild outside its native range if exempted or under licence. Additionally, if a biofuel crop was shown to be particularly invasive, further restrictions could be put in place.