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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

31st meeting
Strasbourg, 29 November - 2 December 2011

**RECOMMENDATION
ON THE EUROPEAN CODE OF CONDUCT ON PETS AND
INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES**

*Document
prepared by
the Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

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Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

**Recommendation No. 154 (2011) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 2 December 2011,
on the European Code of Conduct on Pets and Invasive Alien Species**

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;

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

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 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”;

Taking note of the conclusions of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group meeting (2011) on addressing the risks associated with the introduction of invasive species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food, organised within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Welcoming the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, endorsed 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;

Noting the need to co-operate with all the actors involved in breeding, import and trade of pets in the prevention of the entry, release and spread of IAS into the territory of the Convention;

Referring to the European Code of Conduct on Pets and Invasive Alien Species [document T-PVS/Inf (2011) 1rev];

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. Take the European Code of Conduct mentioned above into account while drawing up other relevant codes - or where appropriate - draw up national codes of conduct on pets and IAS;

2. Collaborate as appropriate with the private sector involved in breeding, import and trade of pets in implementing and helping disseminate good practices and codes of conduct aimed at preventing entry, release and spread of invasive alien species;
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.