COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 203 (2019) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 6 December 2019, on pollinators and invasive alien species

The Standing Committee to 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 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. 91 (2002) on invasive alien species that threaten biological diversity in islands and geographically and evolutionary isolated ecosystems;

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

Recalling its Recommendation No. 125 (2007) on trade in invasive and potentially invasive alien species in Europe;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 126 (2007) on the eradication of some invasive alien plant species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 141 (2009) on potentially invasive alien plants being used as biofuel crops;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 142 (2009), adopted on 26 November 2009, interpreting the CBD definition of invasive alien species to take into account climate change;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 160 (2012) on the European Code of Conduct for Botanic Gardens on Invasive Alien Species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 178 (2015) on the control of feral ungulates in island of the Mediterranean and Macaronasian Regions;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 193 (2017) on the European Code of Conduct for Invasive Alien Trees;

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 the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with its 20 headline Aichi targets for 2020, adopted at COP 10 of the CBD and 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";

Recalling 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;

Recalling the EU Regulation No. 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species;

Recalling the EU Pollinators initiative, established in June 2018 through the adoption of a European Commission Communication which identifies invasive alien species as key threats to pollinators and aware of the work of the European Commission to develop guidance in support of the initiative's specific action to reduce the impacts of IAS on pollinators;

Recalling that the Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production (2016) named invasive alien species as one of the main threats to pollinators, among intensive agricultural management and pesticide use, pollution, pathogens and climate change;

Recognising that the IPBES Report on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production (2016) defines a native pollinator as a pollinator species living in an area where it evolved, or dispersed without human intervention and defines a wild pollinator as a pollinator that can live without human husbandry, although some may depend on agricultural settings for survival;

Conscious that invasive alien species are assessed as one of the five direct drivers of biodiversity loss in the IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, approved by the IPBES Plenary at its 7th session in May 2019 in Paris, France (IPBES-7);

Conscious that pollination is a key process in nature that enables the reproduction of plants and is thus essential for food production and that the conservation status of wild pollinators is worrying;

Conscious as well that it is essential that knowledge on the causes of the decline in pollinators is improved in order to support streamlined action to tackle it;

Urges Contracting Parties to:

1. Consider the effects of invasive alien species on wild native pollinators to ensure that solid scientific information is at the base of new conservation efforts,
2. Establish and implement effective action plans for priority pathways to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species that pose a threat to wild native pollinators,
3. Identify and eradicate, if possible, or control invasive alien species that pose a threat to wild native pollinators,
4. Identify appropriate stakeholders in scientific and research institutes, in other levels of government and in NGOs, that may support prevention, control and eradication programmes and involve them as appropriate in the planning and implementation of prevention, control and eradication efforts,
5. Co-operate with other States, as appropriate, including transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms or expertise, financially or otherwise in prevention, control and eradication programmes,
6. Keep the Standing Committee informed on the measures taken to implement this recommendation.

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