

Analysis of possible implications for the Bern Convention of the new EU Regulation on IAS

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Invasive Alien Species

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General

Bern Convention action aligned with Regulation?

- Mandate
- Incentive
 - Effectiveness: pan-European approach
 - Track record
 - Precedent: Emerald Network
- General issues
 - EU Regulation ≠ Standing Committee Res. / Rec.

- Commission Proposal:
‘Union-level action is necessary as IAS problems are increasing and are cross-border by nature. In view of the lack of Union-level action, Member States are putting measures in place to cope with the problem at national level. They are investing resources and efforts in eradicating harmful IAS but such efforts can be undermined by a lack of action in a neighbouring Member State where the species is also present. ... Current efforts are highly fragmented and inconsistent, leaving considerable policy gaps. These lead to ineffectiveness and do not solve the IAS problem. A mixture of Union and national, regional and local measures will be needed, in line with the principle of subsidiarity. However, a coherent approach at Union level will increase the effectiveness of the measures.’
- Article 22 IAS Regulation:
‘Member States shall ... cooperate with third countries ... using existing structures arising from regional or international agreements’

IAS Regulation

Preamble

- I. General provisions
- II. Prevention
- III. Early detection & rapid eradication
- IV. Management of widely spread IAS
- V. Horizontal provisions
- VI. Final provisions

Listing of IAS

Regulation:

- IAS of member state concern
- IAS of regional concern
- IAS of Union concern
 - List of IAS of Union concern
 - Strict criteria
 - Risk assessment

Bern Convention:

- Scope for 'List of IAS of European concern'
 - Based on Union List, but not necessarily identical

Prevention of IAS introductions

Regulation:

- Restrictions on introductions of IAS of Union concern
- Priority pathway assessment and action plans

Bern Convention:

- Scope for parallel regime for non-EU member states:
 - For ‘IAS of European concern’
 - Mirroring Regulation provisions as closely as appropriate

Detection, eradication, management & restoration

Regulation:

- Surveillance systems
- Early eradication of IAS of Union concern
- Management of widely spread IAS of Union concern
- Ecosystem restoration

Bern Convention:

- Scope for parallel regime for non-EU member states:
 - For 'IAS of European concern'
 - Mirroring Regulation provisions as closely as appropriate

Synthesis: potential Convention action

- Develop generic guidance:
 - Risk assessment
 - Priority pathways
 - Surveillance systems
 - Ecosystem restoration
 - Information system
 - Develop parallel regime for non-EU states:
 - Mirroring, as far as appropriate, Regulation provisions
 - Adjusted to Regulation timelines
 - Carefully adapted to Convention context
- > Standing Committee Recommendation