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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

41st meeting
Strasbourg, 29 November - 3 December 2021

**Report on Alien pathogens and pathogens spread by invasive alien species in
Europe**

**-BRIEF SUMMARY INDICATING THE FORESEEN
UPDATES-**

*Document prepared by
Riccardo Scalerà*

During the 14th meeting of the Group of Experts on IAS held on 6 July 2021, it was decided that a few changes to the document would be needed. The required updates were decided on the basis of the feedback to the comments received by reviewers from Parties, which were summarized in the discussion paper T-PVS/Inf(2021)22, previously circulated to Parties. Here follows a summary of such updates:

- 1) Some information present in the document appears currently outdated, particularly in relation to relevant legislation e.g. in the EU animal and plant health legislation (not to consider any points in the literature). It was noted since the relevant legislation and policy documents are reviewed regularly, an effort to map the current policy and legislation framework could be soon be out-of-date. This is inherent to the time needed for the revision and approval of a document since the time a document is actually drafted. Therefore, it was decided to keep the document as it is, coherently with the draft date of 2019. However, while the document will not be update on this regard, a disclaimer will be added to clarify the drafting date and acknowledging the time gap.
- 2) A glossary with definitions for key terms and concepts will be added. It will be used to introduce and clarify terms and concepts such as invasive alien species (IAS), emerging infectious diseases (EIDs), pathogen, disease, parasite, wildlife, livestock, pest, etc. The definitions will be based on those already adopted within the main treaties and legislation. In case of inconsistencies or lack of clear definitions, a basic explanation will be added to show the meaning of the relevant terms as intended in the document. If some terms are not included in the glossary, it will be explained why. However, it will be stressed that, as acknowledged in chapter 3 of the study, further investigations going beyond the scope of the present study are required, including on definitions, as well as regarding the actual relevance of topics and problems discussed (see follow up actions, recommendation #7.2).
- 3) Zoonosis fall beyond the scope of the document, nevertheless the relevant risks for human health (which is indeed inherent to the spread of invasive alien species) will be mentioned, to acknowledge the link between wildlife, pathogens and zoonosis.
- 4) Official definitions and citations excerpted from the websites of treaties and organisations introduced in the document will be highlighted in *Italic* to clarify the different usage of terminology.
- 5) While a comprehensive legislation assessment would be beyond the initial scope of the document, to widen the policy and legislation analysis it was decided to circulate a questionnaire to Bern Convention Parties which are not members of the EU. The replies will be combined and added as annex to the document. This can be used as a basis for further analysis to be made by relevant experts, as foreseen in the document as a follow up action (see recommendation #7.6).
- 6) In conclusion, several minor edits and remarks suggested by the reviewers across the full document will be taken into account in the final draft of the document (see for example all comments in green in the discussion paper mentioned above).