



Strasbourg, 05 August 2025

T-PVS/Report(2025)07

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

45<sup>th</sup> meeting

Strasbourg, 8 – 12 December 2025

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**Meeting of the Group of Experts  
on Invasive Alien Species**

20 March 2025, 9h30 –12h30 CET, online

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**- Meeting Report -**

## **Opening of the meeting by the Chair**

The Chair, Mr Pawel WASOWICZ, welcomed participants, noting that as four years have passed since the previous meeting, there is a need to analyse significant developments and changes on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the intervening period. With a view to building the momentum of the group's work, he suggested that the meeting could serve as an opportunity to evaluate recent developments on IAS monitoring, reporting or control/eradication, and to propose further issues for discussion. The Group adopted the agenda as it appears in Appendix \*.

## **Getting to know**

The meeting participants briefly introduced themselves. The list of participants is included in Appendix II.

## **Earlier work of the Bern Convention on Invasive Alien Species**

Ms Merike LINNAMÄGI (Estonia), the Vice-Chair of the Group of Experts, offered the Group a summary of the Bern Convention's previous work on IAS, as it relates to topics such as botanical gardens, horticulture, alien trees, pets, e-commerce, biofuel crops, hunting, recreational fishing, protected areas, pets etc. (see the list of [recommendations on IASs](#), guidance documents, codes of conduct, actions plans and strategies [here](#)).

## **Further needs**

The group was invited to propose its needs and concerns regarding IAS and ideas for the further work of the Group. Several topics of interest were discussed:

- The potential need for existing documents on IAS to be updated.
- The issue of biocontrol agents as a potential source of new IAS.
- The need for greater attention to be given to the marine biome in relation to IAS, as an extremely dynamic environment prone to intrusion by invasive species. It was noted that freshwater environments also require further attention.
- Ms Johanna NIEMIVUO-LAHTI (FINLAND) requested information on the agreement on ballast waters and its development, and on the state of play of Target 6 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), focused on invasive alien species ("Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services").
- Concerns on biocontrol species, and the use of IAS in restoration projects (especially as one of the objectives on the EU Strategy on Biodiversity). The Chair noted that Iceland is using invasive species for forest restoration developments.
- The need for meetings (online or in person) to be conducted on a bi-annual basis to maintain the momentum of the Group's work.
- Mr Wojciech SOLARZ proposed signatory states to the Bern Convention be asked again to submit their national reports on IAS, also suggesting specifically that reports be provided to the Bureau on the frequent release of sika deer in Northern Macedonia.
- The increasing problem of the trade of exotic species and their conversion into IAS.
- The need to promote the presence of non-EU countries to the meetings of the Group, as a means of raising their awareness on gravity of the problem.
- Ms LINNAMÄGI reminded the Group that the EU has published a manual on the humane control of IAS, which is available online.
- The possibility of collaboration with advocates of animal rights, who are open to discussion on the topic of IAS. The secretariat pointed to intensifying conflicts between advocates of animal

rights and the scientific and wildlife manager community on the topic of animal welfare, to a point which is compromising the efficacy of IAS control/eradication.

- The problem of biomass waste material as a way of spreading IAS.
- The inclusion of insular IAS in the topics of interest to the group.

The Chair agreed to prepare a Doodle poll to allow the Group to vote for what they consider to be the three most relevant of the above points, so that they can be prioritised for future activities.

### **Priorities**

The Group recommended that the Bern Convention continue to work towards the following:

- The strengthening of the Group, as a combined effort of the Secretariat and members of the Group. This might involve renewed contact with focal points, observers and stakeholders, proposing the addition of new members among IAS specialists (from both academic and managerial backgrounds). This should be considered a priority.
- Liaison with the EU Commission Group of IAS Experts.
- The encouragement of the participation of the United Kingdom and of Norway, which are leading in the field of IAS but are not represented in the Group.
- Preparing a joint meeting with the Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles in June or in the second half of the year 2025 and a thematic meeting of the IASs GoE before the end of the year or in early 2026.

### **Closing**

The Chair thanked the members of the Group of Experts for their contributions to the meeting and declared the meeting closed.

### **Appendices**

Appendix I – the meeting agenda

Appendix II – list of participants

Appendix III - Resources and links shared by the meeting participants:

## Appendix I – the meeting agenda



Strasbourg, 18 March 2025

T-PVS/Agenda(2025)10

### CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL HABITATS

#### Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species

20 March 2025, 9h30 – 12h30 CET, online

#### DRAFT AGENDA

##### **9h30 Opening of the meeting by the Chair**

Opening remarks by Pawel Wasowicz, Chair of the Group of Experts, adopting the meeting agenda

##### **9h40 Getting to know**

Tour de table with everyone briefly presenting themselves

##### **9h55 Earlier work of the Bern Convention on Invasive Alien Species**

Overview of the work of the Group of Experts so far by Merike Linnamägi, the Vice-Chair of the Group of Experts and the Secretariat

##### **10h10 Further needs**

Sharing about needs concerning IASs and ideas for the further work of the Group<sup>1</sup>

##### **10h45 Break**

##### **11h00 Priorities**

Discussing and prioritising the topics to be addressed by the Group in 2025 and beyond

##### **12h00 Next steps**

Agreeing on the steps to take until the next meeting of the Group in autumn 2025 and the joint meeting with the Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles in spring 2025

##### **12h15 Concluding the meeting**

Summarising the conclusions of the meeting

##### **12h30**

**Closing**

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<sup>1</sup> The Experts are invited to suggest topics to be addressed by the Group in its future work.

## Appendix II – list of participants

### National Representatives:

<b>Contracting Parties</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	<b>Petra Kutleša</b> Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition
<b>Czechia</b>	<b>Jana PĚKNICOVÁ</b> Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic  <b>Eliška ROLFOVÁ</b> Unit of International Conventions Department of Species Protection and Implementation of International Commitments Ministry of the Environment
<b>Estonia</b>	<b>Merike LINNAMÄGI</b> Advisor Biodiversity Conservation Department Ministry of the Climate
<b>Finland</b>	<b>Johanna NIEMIVUO-LAHTI</b> Senior Ministerial Adviser Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
<b>Germany</b>	<b>Annika TIESMEYER</b> Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)  <b>Clara FRASCONI WENDT</b> Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)  <b>Timm REINHARDT</b> Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)
<b>Iceland</b>	<b>Paweł WASOWICZ</b> Chair of the Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species Department Director – Botany Nature Science Institute of Iceland
<b>Monaco</b>	<b>Astrid CLAUDEL RUSIN</b> Head of the Section / Chef de section Directorate of Environment / Direction de l'Environnement Department of Infrastructure, Environment and Urbanism / Département de l'Équipement, de l'Environnement et de l'Urbanisme
<b>Poland</b>	<b>Ewa PISARCZYK</b> Chief Expert General Directorate for Environmental Protection Nature Management Department Species Protection Unit  <b>Małgorzata KORCZAK</b>

	<p>General Directorate for Environmental Protection</p> <p><b>Edyta BALCERZAK</b> General Directorate for Environmental Protection</p> <p><b>Wojciech SOLARZ</b> Institute for Nature Conservation Polish Academy of Sciences</p>
<b>Portugal</b>	<p><b>Carla Maria GONÇALVES SILVA</b> Institute of Nature Conservation and Forests Department of Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity</p> <p><b>Paulo CARMO</b> Institute of Nature Conservation and Forests Department of Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity</p>
<b>Slovakia</b>	<p><b>Ema GOJDIČOVÁ</b> Botanist Regional office of the State Nature Conservancy</p>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<p><b>Branka TAVZES</b> Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Directorate for Nature, Biodiversity Division</p>

#### Observers

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
<b>FACE</b>	<b>Sabrina DIETZ</b>

#### Independent Experts

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>Riccardo SCALERA</b>	Independent consultant, University of Roma IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group

#### Council of Europe Secretariat:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>Marta MEḌLIŃSKA</b>	Programme Manager Bern Convention
<b>José AMENGUAL</b>	Policy Advisor Bern Convention

### **Appendix III - Resources and links shared by the meeting participants**

[Assessment Report on IASs and their control](#) by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity & Ecosystem, Services (IPBES) - [www.ipbes.net](http://www.ipbes.net)

Information about Invasive Alien Species release in Northern Macedonia

<https://www.huntinginmacedonia.com.mk/en/breeding-center>

[Manual for the management of vertebrate invasive alien species of Union concern, incorporating animal welfare](#)

<https://easin.jrc.ec.europa.eu/easin/documentation/Codesofconduct>

(with translations in the sub-part dissemination materials)

Translations into Polish of the Bern Convention documents on IASs:

<https://www.gov.pl/web/gdos/inwazyjne-gatunki-obce3>