



EU Conference on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 23-24/05/2019, Brussels

Stakeholder conference on the evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

24 May 2019, European Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 99

BREAKOUT DISCUSSION ON TARGET 5

11.45 am – 1.00 pm, Room JDE 51

BACKGROUND NOTE

TARGET 5: Combat Invasive Alien Species

By 2020, Invasive Alien Species (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.

Action 15. Strengthen the EU Plant and Animal Health Regimes

The Commission will integrate additional biodiversity concerns into the Plant and Animal Health Regimes by 2012.

Action 16. Establish a dedicated legislative instrument on Invasive Alien Species

The Commission will fill policy gaps in combating IAS by developing a dedicated legislative instrument by 2012.

2. STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION



2015 - On track to achieve target

Invasive alien species are a growing threat to biodiversity in the EU, as well as causing social and economic damage. In 2014, the EU adopted IAS regulation to provide a framework for coordinated action on invasive alien species of Union concern. The European Alien Species Information Network (EASIN) and notification support system NOTSYS support the regime and are regularly updated.

Progress towards Action 15

- The plant health regime addresses certain pests affecting biodiversity (e.g. Asian long-horned beetle affecting trees).
- The animal health regime addressed for the first time a disease affecting wildlife: the fungus *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* that causes high mortality among native amphibians.

Progress towards Action 16

- Regulation 1143/2014 entered into force on 1 January 2015.
- 49 species have been listed as IAS of Union concern, 18 more species are under consideration. As a direct result, for the first time there has been coordinated action against IAS at Union level.
- Official (border) controls are in place to prevent intentional introductions of IAS of Union concern.
- Between September 2016 and March 2019, Member States have undertaken rapid eradication measures at 57 instances of newly establishing IAS of Union concern. For 21 of these actions, full eradication was confirmed.
- Member States will report on the management of the first 37 IAS of Union concern and its effectiveness by June 2019.
- Member States have prioritised pathways of unintentional introduction of IAS of Union concern and will submit action plans on these priority pathways on the 37 first IAS of Union concern by summer 2019.
- A major challenge will be that pathways very often fall under other policies, e.g. ballast water and hull fouling (transport policies), biological pest control and novel foods (health policies) or traded commodities contaminated with IAS (trade policies).

3. SESSION OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS

This session aims to obtain stakeholder input for the assessment of key aspects of the implementation of Target 5. **The discussion will address the following key questions:**

Effectiveness

- In your views, how effective is (will be) Regulation EU 1143/2014 (IAS Regulation) in preventing, minimising and mitigating the adverse impact of IAS on biodiversity?
- How effective is (will be) the IAS Regulation in contributing to the objectives of the Birds and Habitats Directive, the Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive?

Questions on Efficiency

- To what extent are the measures on IAS of Union concern implemented cost-efficiently?

Questions on Coherence

- To what extent is the IAS Regulation being mainstreamed into other EU policies, e.g. agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, regional and urban development, trade, transport, infrastructure (in particular transport, energy and environmental infrastructure, ports and mining), tourism, climate mitigation and adaptation, research and innovation and development cooperation?

4. SESSION SETUP

Chair: Spyridon Flevaris, DG ENV Biodiversity Unit

Panellists:

- Nathalie Gamain, Secretary General, European Pet Organization (EPO)
- Renata Gomez, Project Manager, Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development
- Sergiy Moroz, Senior Policy Officer for Water and Biodiversity, European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
- Johanna Niemivuo-Lahti, Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland