

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats



Standing Committee

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

(adopted by the Standing Committee on 4 December 2003)

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aim of the Convention which is notably 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;

Bearing in mind Recommendation No. R (84) 14 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to Member states on the introduction of non-native species, adopted on 21 June 1984;

Recalling Recommendation No. 57 (1997) on the Introduction of Organisms belonging to Non-Native Species into the Environment, and the use it makes of terms such as “native species” and “introduction”, as well as to the species, subspecies or varieties to which Recommendation 57 refers to;

Recalling Recommendation No. 77 (1999) on the eradication of non-native terrestrial vertebrates;

Recalling that under Article 8.h of the Convention on Biological Diversity, each Party undertakes to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species;

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, as well as the conservation guidelines of the Africa-Eurasian Migratory Waterfowl Agreement;

Wishing to contribute to improve the control of the introduction of alien species, and the mitigation of the effects of invasive alien species on the native flora, fauna and natural habitats;

Noting that substantial progress on regulation, management and eradication of invasive alien species has been achieved in Europe in the last years;

Referring to the measures proposed in the “European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species”, [document T-PVS(2003) 7];

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. draw up and implement national strategies on invasive alien species taking into account the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species mentioned above;
2. co-operate, as appropriate, with other Contracting Parties and Observer States in the prevention of introduction of invasive alien species, the mitigation of their impacts on native flora and fauna and natural habitats, and their eradication or containment where feasible and practical, *inter alia* by exchanging information, collaborating in European projects and paying particular attention to invasive alien species in trade and transboundary areas;

3. keep the Standing Committee informed of the measures taken to implement this recommendation;

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