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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

35<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2015

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**RECOMMENDATION N° 179 (2015)**  
**ON ACTION TO PROMOTE AND COMPLEMENT THE**  
**IMPLEMENTATION OF EU REGULATION 1143/2014**  
**ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES**

*Document  
prepared by  
the Directorate of Democratic Governance*



Convention on the Conservation  
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

**Recommendation No. 179 (2015) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 4 December 2015, on action to promote and complement the implementation of EU Regulation 1143/2014 on invasive alien species**

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and its natural habitats;

Recalling that under Article 11, paragraph 2.b of the Convention, each Contracting Party undertakes to strictly control the introduction of non-native species;

Recalling also Articles 2, 3, 4 and 11, paragraph 1 of the Convention;

Recalling its previous Recommendations addressing invasive alien species, including Recommendation No. 99 (2003) on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species and Recommendation No. 125 (2007) on trade in invasive and potentially invasive alien species in Europe;

Welcoming the entry into force and application by the EU and its member states of Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species;

Determined to promote the effective application of Regulation 1143/2014 and to promote the taking of corresponding action by Contracting Parties that are not EU Member States, in order to achieve an approach that is as uniform and effective as possible across Europe;

Taking note of document T-PVS/Inf (2015) 14, which identifies various courses of action that may be taken under the Convention in this regard;

Noting that important contributions could be made through technical work, including the development of guidance, in coordination with the European Commission and other relevant bodies as appropriate, regarding several aspects of the implementation of Regulation 1143/2014, including:

- assistance with the performance of risk assessments in accordance with Article 5 of the Regulation,
- guidance on the identification of priority pathways and the design of priority pathway action plans, as required under Article 13 of the Regulation,
- guidance on the design and operation of the surveillance systems required under Article 14 of the Regulation,
- guidance concerning the restoration of ecosystems impaired by invasive alien species in accordance with Article 20 of the Regulation, and
- the enhancement of the information support system operating under Article 25 of the Regulation;

Welcoming document T-PVS/Inf (2015) 27 on priority pathways, as well as the draft document T-PVS/Inf (2015) 24 on risk assessment as useful contributions in this regard, while recognising the desirability of further technical work and cooperation regarding the aforementioned issues;

Noting that, in addition, it is desirable to design and implement an equivalent regime on invasive alien species tailored to those Contracting Parties which are not EU Member States, and resembling the regime laid down in Regulation 1143/2014 as closely as appropriate and feasible;

Furthermore noting that such a regime should operate on the basis of a List of invasive alien species of European concern, based on the List of invasive alien species of Union concern drawn up under Regulation 1143/2014, and should set out preventive, detection, eradication, management and restoration measures emulating, in duly adapted form, those set out in Regulation 1143/2014,

Recommends that:

*Contracting Parties which are EU Member States:*

1. Cooperate with each other, and with non-EU Member States, where this would enhance the effective implementation of Regulation 1143/2014;

*Contracting Parties which are not EU Member States:*

2. Cooperate with EU Member States where this would enhance the effective implementation of Regulation 1143/2014, and consider adopting similar measures as those set out in the Regulation to the extent feasible and appropriate.

Invites the European Commission, where appropriate, to liaise with Contracting Parties and Observer States which are not EU Member States in the implementation of Regulation 1143/2014.

Invites Observer States to cooperate, as appropriate, with the EU and its Member States regarding the implementation of Regulation 1143/2014.

Instructs the Secretariat to cooperate, as appropriate, with the European Commission, Contracting Parties and other partners in technical issues such as risk assessment, identification of priority pathways for invasive alien species, design and implement of priority pathways action plans, identification of invasive alien species of European concern, guidance on management of IAS on the field, surveillance systems, restoration of ecosystems impaired by invasive alien species, information systems and other matters that may prevent the entry and spread of invasive alien species and limit their impact on native species and natural habitats protected under the Convention.