



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate D – Natural Capital
ENV.D.2 - Biodiversity

2ND MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

BRUSSELS, 6 SEPTEMBER 2016

MINUTES

The second meeting of the Working Group on Invasive Alien Species (WGIAS) was held in Brussels on 6 September 2016. The meeting was chaired by the Head of Unit ENV.D2. The list of attendants is provided in Annex I.

All documents¹ referred to in these minutes are available online at:

<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/acb1768f-16d3-4077-a92f-81a6e1f52131>

1. OPENING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

COM welcomed the participants to the meeting.

The proposed agenda was adopted without comments.

2. PRESENTATION BY THE COMMISSION (IAS TEAM, DG ENV UNIT D.2)

The Commission (COM) delivered a presentation on the following topics:

a) Progress in the implementation of the IAS Regulation 1143/2014:

Following the entry into force of the IAS Regulation, two implementing acts have been adopted and entered into force: *Implementing Reg. (EU) 2016/145 adopting the format of the document serving as evidence for the permit issued by the competent authorities* and *Implementing Reg. (EU) 2016/1141 adopting a list of invasive alien species of Union concern*.

EASIN is continuously being updated by JRC, public access: <http://easin.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

A Notification System (NOTSYS): <https://easin-notsys.jrc.ec.europa.eu/notsys/> and an electronic authorisation system as required respectively under Articles 9 and 25 of the IAS regulation have been made available to the Member States (access restricted to the competent authorities).

A preparatory LIFE project co-financed by COM and EPPO is expected to produce risk assessments on 16 plant species over the coming months: www.iap-risk.eu.

¹ agenda, presentation by the Commission, scoping document

Three acts are in preparation:

- (i). Implementing Regulation on the technical format for reporting – Art.24(4) of R.1143/2014
- (ii). Implementing Regulation on the first update of the list of IAS of Union concern – Art.4(1) of R.1143/2014: 17 species were under consideration for this first update. COM explained that it was possible that not all these 17 species would be included since the process was still ongoing, while on the other hand further species would be considered at a next update.
- (iii). Delegated Act on risk assessments – Art.5(3) of R. 1143/2014:

COM explained that implementing acts are discussed within the IAS Committee, while delegated acts need to be discussed within an expert group, i.e. the Scientific Forum on IAS.

b) Online sources of information:

COM explained that links on its dedicated IAS webpage allow any interested party to follow the ongoing work on implementation of the IAS Regulation:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivealien/index_en.htm

Furthermore, the work of the IAS Committee can be followed directly via the Comitology Register: <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regcomitology/index.cfm>

The work of the Scientific Forum and the Working group can be followed via the Expert Group Register: <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/>

Finally, a repository of documents discussed at the Scientific Forum and the WGIAS is publicly available at CIRCABC, respectively at:

<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/ed95cea1-4f6a-4a3b-b27d-b2bfb8288c42>

and

<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/2cc89b36-fd67-4b70-a50e-bb4c006166e9>

c) Procedure to be followed for future updates of the Union list

COM presented the workflow of the procedure of considering new proposals for species to be included on the Union list. According to the Regulation, either COM or any of the Member States may introduce such a proposal.

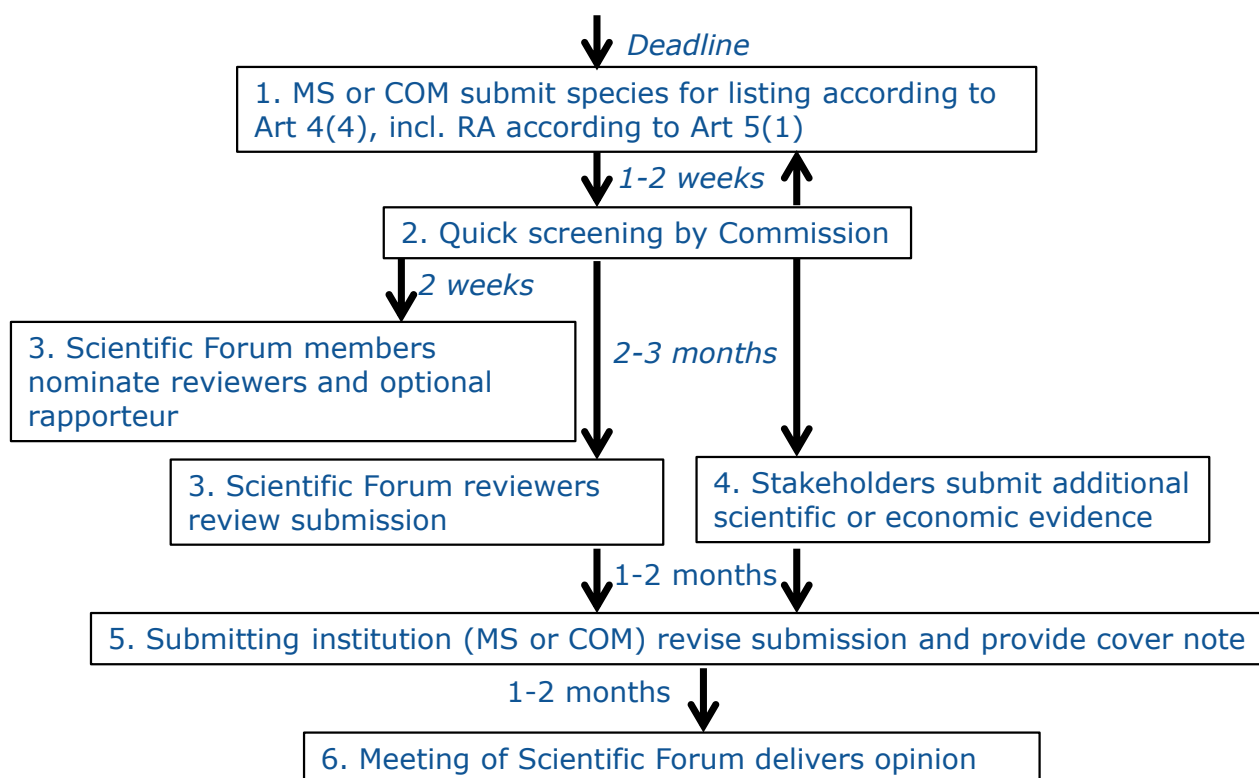
Fixed deadlines have been agreed with the Scientific Forum in order to make the process predictable for all actors. In practice, the Scientific Forum will be considering all new risk assessments that will be arriving by a certain deadline in one batch. RA submitted after the deadline will be considered at the next round.

The deadline for receiving new risk assessments for the second update of the list has been set for 10 February 2017.

All stakeholders are strongly encouraged to submit their input in parallel with the first review by the Scientific Forum. Input that will be considered is additional referenced information that would allow informing the process: either scientific information to be considered by the Scientific Forum or data on socio-economic benefits and on risk management to be considered by the IAS Committee.

European stakeholder organisations can provide input directly to ENV-IAS@ec.europa.eu. National / local organisations / citizens can provide input through a European stakeholder organisation or their Member State's competent authority.

Comments by the Scientific Forum and the stakeholders will be then submitted to the authors of the RA in order to revise the RA. The Scientific Forum would then provide its opinion on the revised RA.



Following a positive opinion on a RA for its scientific robustness and compliance with Article 5(1) of R.1143/2014, the concerned species would then be discussed at the IAS Committee for evaluating whether they meet the criteria for inclusion on the Union list.

d) New rules on the operation of Expert Groups

COM informed the members that following the adoption of a new Commission Decision², they will be requested to update their information. COM would send the related instructions and asked the members to respect the deadlines because that would be a condition to remain members of the group.

COM also provided the following explanations in response to questions by the Members:

- Intention is to adopt the delegated act as soon as possible, however the timeline at the moment is quite unpredictable as work is at an early stage.
- Any interested party can prepare a RA but it needs to be submitted via (and therefore supported by) COM or a Member State.
- The IAS Committee formally provides its opinion on the entire text of an implementing regulation, i.e. the entire list of species proposed. However, species are individually considered beforehand and the COM proposal would include those species that have the support of the majority of the Member States.
- COM does not consider the obligations deriving from R.1143/2014 from a potential future inclusion of marine species on the Union list as incompatible with obligations deriving by a potential entry into force of the IMO Ballast Water Convention.
- While a structured process for list updates will be followed, provisions under article 10 of R.1143/2014 provide the tools to Member State to take emergency measures if needed.
- Removal of a species from the Union list is also possible if this is supported by a justified proposal from a Member State or COM. COM however considered that before opening such a discussion, experience would need to be gained during a few years on the effects of the listing.
- COM is of the view that the Regulation provides flexibility to the Member States in devising management and eradication measures for animal species taking into account animal welfare considerations without compromising the objectives of the Regulation. The basic condition that kept animals will need to be prevented from escaping and reproducing should however be respected.

3. WORKING SESSIONS

The participants split in three parallel working sessions with the objective to initiate the work towards a report by the WGIAS that will facilitate the application of the IAS Regulation 1143/2014 in relation to the following topics:

Working session 1: Management of pathways of introduction and spread of IAS of Union concern

² http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/PDF/C_2016_3301_F1_COMMISSION_DECISION_EN.pdf

Working session 2: Surveillance of IAS of Union concern

Working session 3: Management of IAS of Union concern

Prior to the meeting, COM had provided to participants a scoping document to frame the discussion in the working sessions and highlight where the expertise of the members is sought. COM encouraged participants to work in an open and participative way, with the aim to present a first draft report by April 2017, to be reviewed again by all and finalised at a next meeting, provisionally set for beginning of June 2017.

The meeting was concluded in a plenary session where each of the three groups presented their initial ideas on the topic they worked upon. Regarding the follow-up it was agreed that:

- Leaders identified for each of the groups would prepare a first draft of a report on the discussions during the working sessions, to be circulated for further inputs first within the group and subsequently to the whole WGIAS.
- COM offered dedicated CIRCABC spaces for each of three groups where material collected and draft reports could be made publicly available.

The links to these are:

For working session 1: Management of pathways of introduction and spread of IAS of Union concern

<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/ff3ee92e-c312-4299-bdad-2d836e1ab1e5>

For working session 2: Surveillance of IAS of Union concern

<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/94cf7f81-1a14-4306-85ca-678f3acf5a3a>

For working session 3: Management of IAS of Union concern

<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/6109dd04-716c-48a2-b91c-5a6b2d90a314>

Annex I: List of participants

European Commission:

ENV.D2 and JRC.D2

Members of WGIAS:

Argyro Zenetos
BirdLife International
Danish Ministry of environment, the Nature Agency
DEFRA (UK)
Environment and Resources Authority (Malta)
Eurogroup for animals
European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO/OEPP)
European Anglers Alliance (EAA)
European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA)
European Boating Association
European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA)
European Landowners' Organization
FACE - Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation
Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria
Giuseppe Brundu
HeidelbergCement
IFAW - International Fund for Animal Welfare
Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente (Spain)
Ministry of Environment of Poland
National Biodiversity Data Centre (Ireland)
Natural Resources Institute Finland
NVWA - Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority of the Netherlands
Ornamental Fish International / European Pet Organisation
Peter Robertson
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
Woodland Trust
WWF Spain