

Invasive Alien Species - A European Concern

SECTION 1: SCALE OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES PROBLEMS IN THE EU

Question 1 : Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'If we are to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and secure its longer-term recovery, there is an urgent need to review measures for the prevention and control of invasive alien species in the EU, and to identify and put in place necessary measures to fill critical gaps'.

I agree

Question 2 : If you disagree or strongly disagree with the statement in Question 1, please indicate your reasons why by ticking up to three of the following statements.

Question 3 : Invasive alien species have a wide range of environmental, economic and social impacts. Please indicate which type of impacts you think should be prioritized for action at EU level by ticking the appropriate category for each type of impact in the box below:

Impacts on biodiversity in the EU at genetic, species and ecosystem level (competing with indigenous species, bringing in disease agents)	Very important
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Damage to natural function and resilience of ecosystems	Relatively important
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Alteration of landscapes (some invasive plants and trees replace existing species)	Relatively important
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Impacts on businesses and livelihoods (increased operating costs, reduced markets...)	Relatively important
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Impacts on public health (e.g. spread of allergenic plants)	Relatively important
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Impacts on leisure and recreation opportunities (e.g. loss of native fish for angling due to introduced species)	Relatively important
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Reduction in the capacity of the EU's environment to adapt to climate change	Not very important
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SECTION 2 : PREVENTING INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES – OPTIONS FOR DELIVERY

Question 4 : Prevention measures can be implemented at different stages along the pathways for introduction of invasive alien species. A combination of measures is needed to manage shared problems effectively. Please indicate how important you think the following objectives are to the future EU framework.

Preventing the import of potential invasive alien species into EU continental territory	Relatively important
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Preventing the import of potential invasive alien species into islands in the EU, including overseas territories	Relatively important
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Preventing trade in invasive alien species inside the EU (between Member States)	Relatively important
Preventing the spread of invasive alien species between Member States	Relatively important
Preventing the introduction of potential invasive alien species into the wild	Relatively important
Preventing species native in one part of the EU from reaching other EU regions where they have a high risk of becoming invasive	Not at all important

Question 5 : Controls at the EU's external borders focus primarily on protecting public health, animal and plant health against biological and chemical risks. However, invasive alien species can out-compete indigenous, wild species of plants and animals, they can also cause damage to human health (especially allergies) as well as having direct economic impacts (e.g. blocking water ways or fouling pipes and buildings). One of the options for reducing the introduction of IAS is to increase controls at the border in order to detect and stop the introductions. Please rank the following elements in the order you consider important for an effective and proportionate border control system, from the most (1) to the least (5) important (you may only select each position once).

Screening of alien species/commodities entering EU for first time to minimize risk of future problems

Clear and accessible information for importers and exporters of species and commodities	1
Efficiency of border controls	2
Avoidance of new administrative burdens	
Minimal change to familiar procedures	3

Question 6 : Major damage to EU biodiversity has resulted from intentional introductions of invasive alien species as a commodity for release or use in containment and also from accidental escapes of introduced species (see background documents – useful links). Measures to minimize such risks include more effective regulation of the trade and use of potential invasive alien species. Please indicate whether you consider such limitations could be acceptable in the following sectors.

Horticulture and garden centers	Yes
Landscaping and construction	I don't know
Agriculture	Yes
Forestry	Yes
Pet and ornamental fish trade	Yes
Angling	Yes
Scientific research	Yes

Question 7 : Among the proposals listed below, please choose up to three measures that you think would do most to improve public awareness of invasive alien species risks and encourage the use

Public awareness and information campaigns
 Voluntary codes of conduct (e.g. guidance on which water plants to avoid in garden ponds, which bait to use in angling...)
 Labelling and certification schemes for locally sourced

of native species in preference to alien species.	native species
Question 8 : Risks of unintentional introductions need to be tackled through measures adapted to different pathways for introduction. Among the proposals listed below, please choose up to three options that in your opinion would do most to foster responsible practice and stimulate innovation in relevant economic sectors.	Codes of Best Practice Liability and compensation regime Regulation of specific pathways and vectors (e.g. linked to shipping and aviation)
SECTION 3 : EARLY WARNING AND RAPID RESPONSE – OPTIONS FOR DELIVERY	
Question 9 : A system for early warning and exchange of information could be established at EU level, including a central ‘library’ of information and an inventory of invasive alien species in Europe, a database on control measures and a surveillance and alert system for newly-detected IAS. If established this system should preferably build on existing networks (see Background documents – useful links). Please indicate how important you think each of the following criteria is for any future EU system for early warning and rapid response.	
Member States are required to provide necessary information	Very important
Member States are required to carry out necessary monitoring	Very important
System ensures consistent information and early warning throughout EU	Relatively important
System enables prompt exchange of alerts between neighboring countries	Very important
No significant increase in administrative burden for Member States	Not very important
Information is accessible to the public	Very important
SECTION 4 : CONTROLLING INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES – OPTIONS FOR DELIVERY	
Question 10 : Where prevention fails, rapid eradication at the first outbreak is cheaper than long-term control and containment for invasive alien species that become established. Planning can be used to set priorities, establish rapid response procedures and coordinate implementation of long-term control programmes. Please indicate how far you agree with each of the options identified below.	
Eradication/control plans should be developed at EU level for the worst invasive alien species	Agree
Eradication/control plans should be developed at EU level for species that have cross-border impacts or where EU funds have been made available	Strongly agree
Member States should be legally required to take control actions for the worst invasive alien species	Strongly agree
Member States should be required to notify and cooperate with neighboring States where introduced species may have cross-border impacts	Strongly agree

Question 11 : Eradication and control measures based on sound impact assessment may involve the destruction of introduced species to prevent environmental, economic or social impacts. This is a sensitive issue for some members of civil society. Please indicate which of the following statements reflect your views on this issue.

It is not acceptable to undertake control of any invasive alien species	No
It is not acceptable to undertake control of introduced birds and mammals	No
Action may be acceptable if supported by prior consultations and public information	Yes
Control is justified to conserve European biodiversity and ecosystem function	Yes
Control is justified to protect European economic interests	Yes
None of the above	

SECTION 5 : CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS – THE BIGGER PICTURE

Question 12 : To be effective, an EU Framework to combat Invasive Alien Species must be well understood and widely supported by the general public, relevant economic sectors and governments. Please indicate how important you think the following are to successful action across the EU.

Building public awareness of the problem	Very important
Involving the public in finding alternatives and solutions	Relatively important
Building long-term partnerships with concerned sectors and users	Relatively important
Encouraging voluntary approaches and best practices where feasible	Very important
Creating a 'one-stop' easy-access information resource on alien species in the EU	Relatively important
Giving Member States lead responsibility for implementation where appropriate	Relatively important
Streamlining the regulatory framework	Not very important
Minimizing the cost of any new measures	Not very important
Disseminating results of the evaluation of the costs occurred due to the impact of invasive alien species as compared to the costs of prevention, eradication or control.	Very important

Question 13 : Strong prevention and control frameworks have financial implications for Member States. Incursions do not affect States equally but inaction by one State can lead to increased costs and environmental impacts for other Member States. EU financial support could be designed to encourage or require Member States to take prompt action before problems spread across borders. Options could include adjustment of existing instruments or development of new mechanisms (e.g. similar to a solidarity fund under EU plant protection policy). Please tick boxes below to indicate if

and when you think EU funds should be available for eradication/control measures.

Never: funding of control programmes is a matter for Member States	No
When an invasive alien species is detected locally	No
When an invasive alien species could have cross-border impacts	Yes
Where an EU-level action plan is in place to coordinate control and long-term monitoring of the species concerned	Yes
Where control is linked to restoration of native biodiversity (of Community importance)	No

Question 14 : As a major exporter, the EU contributes to the spread of potential invasive alien species to other countries. As a major donor, it provides financial support for programmes in developing countries that may involve introduction and use of potentially invasive alien species. Risks of this type are not currently addressed in EU development cooperation work. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the statements:

The EU and Member States should recognize the risk that activities under their control may pose to other countries as a potential source of IAS	I agree
The EU should take appropriate steps in their export-related activities and development assistance programmes to minimize risks of IAS.	I agree

Question 15 : What do you consider to be the main barriers to launching stronger policies for prevention and management of invasive alien species in Europe? For each of the following categories, please tick the appropriate box to indicate your view.

Users do not know which species are native and which are introduced	Yes
Users are not aware of the risks of invasive alien species	Yes
Alternatives to introduced species are not marketed effectively	I don't know
There are no incentives to encourage users to switch to native species	I don't know
Retailers do not have viable alternatives to introduced species	I don't know
Invasive alien species get little political and media attention	Yes
Governments do not work with industry to address the problem	Yes
Laws and administration are complex: it is hard to understand what is allowed or not	Yes
Compliance costs of stronger frameworks would be too high for governments	No
	No

Stronger measures would deter traders and affect international competitiveness	
Those responsible for introducing invasive alien species do not bear the costs of the consequences of their actions.	Yes
SECTION 6 : PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENT	
Question 16 : Do you reply as an individual or on behalf of an organisation	on behalf of an organisation
Question 17 : What is your country of residence or where is your organisation established ?	
United Kingdom	
Thank you for completing the questionnaire	
Meta Informations	
Creation date	
02-05-2008	
Last update date	
User name	
null	
Case Number	
952091428131212308	
Invitation Ref.	
Status	
N	