



The Time for Action is NOW!

RESOLUTION ON THE EU INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES REGULATION

adopted by the NEOBIOTA¹ Board² at NEOBIOTA 2016³, the 9th International Conference on Biological Invasions, Vianden Luxembourg

At NEOBIOTA 2016, the 9th International Conference on Biological Invasions (Vianden, Luxembourg), the following resolution has been adopted by the Board of NEOBIOTA:

WELCOMING the coming into force of European Union Regulation No. 1143/2014⁴, 'on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species', in January 2015;

WELCOMING Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1141 on the inclusion of the initial 37 species on the 'List of Invasive Alien Species of Union Concern'⁵;

RECALLING that there may be up to 1800 invasive alien species present in the European Union⁶;

RECALLING that invasions of alien species annually cause at least €12.5 Billion worth of damage to the economy of the European Union⁷;

RECALLING the European Union's Biodiversity Strategy's target of combating invasive alien species by 2020⁸;

RECALLING the European Parliament's overwhelming support for further European Union action to meet the targets of the European Union's Biodiversity Strategy⁹;

RECALLING The European Union's Commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity's Aichi Target of effectively managing invasive alien species by 2020¹⁰;

NOTING WITH CONCERN that climate change is highly likely to substantially increase the magnitude of the negative impacts of biological Invasions¹¹;

The EUROPEAN COMMISSION and its COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONERS; with the support of the EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT and the MEMBER STATES, are urged to:

Ensure the swift and effective implementation of EU Regulation 1143/2014 so as to minimise the risk of the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive alien species to the territory of the European Union.

In particular; by ensuring the number of species included on the 'List of invasive alien species of Union concern' is rapidly and rigorously increased to take account of the ever-growing negative impact of invasive alien species in the European Union;

In particular; by ensuring the species included on the 'List of invasive alien species of Union concern' account for a high diversity of invasion pathways, so as to minimise the risk of further invasions by invasive alien species.

Vianden, Luxembourg 14.09.2016



Professor Montserrat Vilà
PRESIDENT OF NEOBIOTA *on behalf of the NEOBIOTA Board*

¹ NEOBIOTA is the European Group on Biological Invasions, an academic consortium of scientists and practitioners specialising in invasive species biology <http://www.neobiota.eu/>

² The NEOBIOTA Board represents and develops NEOBIOTA <http://www.neobiota.eu/organization/>

³ NEOBIOTA 2016, the 9th International Conference on Biological Invasions, occurred 13.09.2016-17.09.2016 and is the latest biennial gathering of NEOBIOTA. It provides a high-level forum to discuss the latest research on invasion biology <http://www.neobiota2016.org/>

⁴ Information on EU Regulation 1143/2014 can be found here http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivealien/index_en.htm and text of the regulation can be found here http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AJOL_2014_317_R_0003

⁵ Information on Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1141 can be found here http://ec.europa.eu/environment/pdf/13_07_2016_news_en.pdf and here http://ec.europa.eu/environment/pdf/13_07_2016_QA_en.pdf; text of the regulation can be found here <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1468477158043&uri=CELEX:32016R1141>

⁶ 12,000 non-native species are known to be present in Europe, of which up to 15% (1,800) are invasive <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/invasive-alien-species-pbKH0414054/>

⁷ Official figures of the European Commission http://ec.europa.eu/environment/pdf/13_07_2016_news_en.pdf
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/pdf/13_07_2016_QA_en.pdf

⁸ Target 5 of the European Biodiversity Strategy: 'By 2020, invasive alien species are identified, priority species controlled or eradicated, and pathways managed to prevent new invasive species from disrupting European biodiversity'
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/strategy/index_en.htm

⁹ An overwhelming majority of MEPS, 592 to 52, voted to approve the European Parliament's Own-Initiative Report on the Mid-Term Review of the European Biodiversity Strategy. Paragraphs 55-57 of the report call for more effective implementation of Regulation 1143/2014, to support Target 5 of the European Biodiversity Strategy
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&mode=XML&reference=A8-2016-0003&language=EN>

¹⁰ Aichi Biodiversity Target 9: 'By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.'. All EU member states and the EU itself are signatories to the Aichi Targets <https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

¹¹ As highlighted by Cascade Sorte, from the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of California, in her keynote speech at NEOBIOTA 2016 on 'Biological Invasions & Climate Change'.