



European Network of Nature Conservation Agencies (ENCA). ENCA is an informal network which fosters exchange of information and collaboration amongst its partners, identifies future challenges and offers information and advice to decision-makers in the field of nature conservation and landscape protection.

ENCA brings together scientific evidence and knowledge of practical application together with experiences in administration and policy advice in the context of biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services. More details can be found under www.encanet.eu.

Statements are positions approved on by ENCA's active participants for communication to a wider public.

ENCA Position Statement 3/2009 on –

EC communication on Towards an EU strategy on invasive species¹

Introduction

Invasive alien species² which threaten biodiversity, i.e. other species, habitats and whole ecosystems substantially contribute to biotic homogenisation worldwide. Due to globalisation, they are one of the most important drivers of biodiversity loss for many countries not only in isolated ecosystems but often elsewhere. In addition, many invasive alien species cause serious economic damage and some of them directly affect human health. According to the respected climate changes scenarios, a lot of current and future invasive alien species would even benefit from rapidly changing environments. New data on the extent of biological invasions pose major regulator and political challenges to the European Community and pan-European institutions³.

Moreover, within Europe, there has been lack of strategic and comprehensive approach and cooperation at various levels.

¹ Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Region Towards an EU strategy on invasive species of 3 December 2008 [COM (2008) 789]

² Invasive alien species (IAS) are species whose introduction and/or spread outside their natural part or present distribution threatens biological diversity. They include also subspecies, populations and genotypes (Convention on Biological Diversity, 2002. <http://www.cbd.int/invasive>).

³ Hulme P.E., Pyšek P., Nentwig W. & Vilà M. (2009): Will threat of biological invasions unite the European Union? *Science* 324: 40-41.

EC communication on Towards an EU strategy on invasive species

Statement

Therefore ENCA

- welcomes the above document issued by the European Commission,
- supports the policy options C (comprehensive, dedicated EU legal instrument),
- considers the development of a EU Strategy on invasive alien species by 2010 as the appropriate response to the serious issue,
- suggests to include in this strategy the EU Black List of Invasive Alien Species,
- recommends the use of modern information technologies including internet for an effective information system on IAS for early warning and rapid response.
- urges the European government to implement the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species adopted by Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention) in 2003 and also covering European countries outside the European Union.

This statement was approved on during the 4th ENCA plenary meeting held in Locarno on May 12th 2009 by the following agencies:

Member agencies

Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection (Czech Republic)
Basque Biodiversity Center (Spain - Basque Country)
Countryside Council for Wales (UK - Wales)
Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Germany)
Federal Office for the Environment FOEN (Switzerland)
Environment Agency (Austria)
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (UK)
Natural England (UK - England)
Scottish Natural Heritage (UK - Scotland)
State Institute for Nature Protection (Croatia)
The Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (MNP) (Netherlands)
State Service of Protected Areas under the Ministry (Lithuania)

Agencies with observer or guest status

Directorate for nature management (Norway)
Staatsbosbeheer (Netherland)
European Environment Agency EEA (Europe)