

Regulation on invasive alien species

Official reference	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	
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Policy level	European	
Type of instrument	Regulation	
Geographical reach	EU Member States	
(Legal) coverage in the BNS	Flemish region, internal waters, territorial sea	
European contact point	Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV)	
Competent authorities in Belgium	For the marine environment: Federal authorities; FPS Health, Food chain safety and Environment; DG Environment; Agency Marine Environment	

// abstract:

This regulation aims to formulate rules to prevent, minimise and mitigate the adverse effects on biodiversity of the intentional and unintentional introduction and spread of invasive alien species. The regulation applies to terrestrial, freshwater and marine species.

A three-level hierarchical approach has been introduced: (1) prevention; (2) early detection and rapid eradication and (3) management of widespread invasive species. For this purpose, an EU priority list of invasive alien species is created. The criteria for inclusion are mentioned in the regulation (Member States may submit a request for inclusion of certain species). For each species, a risk assessment is conducted (ecological, socio-economic aspects) in relation to the current and potential distribution which is important in the context of prioritisation. Member States may also draw up a national list of invasive alien species (optional), and determine which species require enhanced regional cooperation.

In the context of prevention, prohibitions are formulated for certain practices such as selling or cultivating invasive alien species. Each Member State shall establish a licensing system (e.g. permission for research or ex situ conservation) and will create an action plan for the introduction pathways. Regarding early detection, each Member State should set up a surveillance system and a control system. Furthermore, the eradication method in the early stages of invasion is discussed, as well as the exceptions. For widespread species, Member States should develop effective management measures and shall carry out appropriate restoration measures to assist the recovery of a degraded ecosystem.