



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate B - Nature
ENV.B.2 - Biodiversity

Brussels, 21 October 2010
ENV.B2/FW D(2010)729299

Dear Colleagues,

Subject: Call for expression of interest in the reconvened Working Group on Invasive Alien Species

As announced during the stakeholder consultation on Invasive Alien Species, which was held in Brussels on 3 September 2010, the Working Group on Invasive Alien Species (WGIAS) will be re-established and their membership renewed.

The aim of reconvening the Working Group will be to establish an operational set up to provide concrete input to the Commission to assist in the development of the forthcoming EU Strategy on Invasive Alien Species.

More precisely, the WGIAS will be split up in three interactive and dynamic working groups: all members are expected to actively contribute to the debate and to the content with their input and expertise on a number of elements or topics in agenda.

The three Working Groups that will be set up will focus on three main topic areas:

1. prevention,
2. early warning and rapid response and
3. eradication, control/management of IAS and restoration of damaged ecosystems.

Each Working Group will meet twice in Brussels to discuss a set of elements which are being considered for inclusions as components of the future EU policy in these three different areas.

The first round of meetings for the three Working Groups have been provisionally scheduled as follows:

- WG Prevention - 8 December 2010
- WG Early warning and rapid response - 3 February 2011
- WG Eradication, management and restoration - 30 March 2011.

How to apply to join one or several of the WGs

Interested parties should express their interest in participating in the Working Group by filling **the excel form attached to this call of interest** sending it back to ENV-BIODIVERSITY@ec.europa.eu by **8 November 2010**.

Candidates should clearly indicate which Working Group they consider they could make a concrete contribution to and to which they would like to participate.

Selections will then be made on the basis of the criteria outlined in the attached document, describing the **terms of reference** for the Working Groups. Once a selection is made, personal invitations to join the group will be sent to the participants and preparatory material will be circulated ahead of the scheduled meeting.

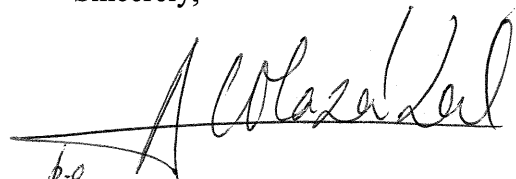
Unit B2 of DG Environment will seek to ensure an adequately balanced and a fair representation, while keeping the group to a manageable size (maximum 40 members). For this reason it may not be possible to offer membership to all those that express an interest. I would like to stress, however, that the group will be run in an open and transparent manner and that the composition of the Working Group, all material distributed and discussed, the presentations and the minutes of these meetings will be available online.

In attachment you will find:

1. A document describing the terms of reference for the Working Groups
2. An interest form – in excel format

Thank you for your continued interest in the invasive alien species dossier. I look forward to further cooperation and exchanges of ideas with you.

Sincerely,



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François Wakenhut
Head of Unit