

Invasive Non-native Species EU Policy

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Trust and Co-ordinator : Sustainable
Users Network (SUN)**

General Principles

- INNS are undisputedly an area of genuine and serious concern (no-release principle)
- Seen by some as a means to develop a career or pursue ideological aims – hence exaggerated in some quarters
- Precautionary Principle works for conservation but equally for preserving human rights and business interests
- Need for proportionality, focus on species of serious concern and legislation that can secure direct stakeholder goodwill & compliance

The Major Issues As We see Them

- White versus Black Lists
- One List or Many
- Import, trade and possession
- All EU or country-by-country or Biogeographic Region

White Versus Black Lists

- Agree fully with Birdlife International's policy statement :
 - A White List Approach to deliberate introductions
 - A Black List Approach to keeping, movement and trade of potentially harmful non-native species
- If done on rigorous scientific assessment will generate stakeholder buy-in

Import, Community Trade and Possession Controls

- Valid reasons to ban a *few* of the most harmful species from import across all of the EU
- Intra-community trade bans might work in a few selected cases but likely to be counter-productive in most circumstances (promoting undercover exercises, intentional release, etc.) i.e. follow the Plant Health protocols
- Possession controls are and must remain a Member State Competency and not given-up to Brussels (UK Government Policy and in any case allows for practical solutions e.g. pinioning)

EU, Member State or Biogeographic Region?

- In a very few cases it might be proportionate to impose on an EU-wide basis
- In the great majority of cases it is more appropriate and proportionate to do so by Member State or groups of Member States :
 - Maintains Member States' powers and makes them individually responsible
 - Allows for flexibility and prioritisation
 - Caters for each countries individual circumstances
 - Ecologically sensible (Finland versus Cyprus!)

Responsibility of Direct Stakeholder Representative Organisations

- Dissemination of information to constituency
- Guidance :
 - Red/Amber/Green recommendations
 - Confinement guidelines
- European Code of Conduct on Pets and Invasive Alien Species – commissioned by the European Council (link on GB Non-Native Species Secretariat's web site)
- Many other awareness campaigns funded by the industry