

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002523/25
to the Commission
Anna Brylka (P/E)
(24 June 2025)**

Subject: List of invasive alien species, Part 1

In connection with the decision taken at the 21st sitting of the Committee on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) on 20 June 2025, could the Commission please urgently provide clarification on the inclusion of the American mink (*Neogale vison*) on the list of invasive alien species representing a threat to the European Union, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014.

According to the information provided at that meeting, the introduction of a two-year transitional period before the entry into force of provisions restricting the rearing of American mink was considered appropriate. In light of the above:

1. What exactly does the two-year transition period proposed on 20 June 2025 entail — is it a period allowing American mink breeders to prepare before the restrictions arising from the recognition of this species as an IAS become officially binding?
2. Will the American mink be officially recognised as an invasive alien species from the moment that the updated annex to the regulation is published, or only once the two-year transition period has ended?
3. When will the amendment to the annex to Regulation 1143/2014 to include the American mink be published?

Submitted: 24.6.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(27 August 2025)**

The deferral of 24 months of listing of American mink (*Neovison vison*) gives Member States and operators time to prepare for the future listing of the species as an invasive alien species (IAS) of Union concern under the IAS Regulation ⁽¹⁾.

This may include the preparation by Member States considering this justified of applications for the authorisations referred to in Article 9 of the regulation according to which in exceptional cases, for reasons of compelling public interest, Member States may issue permits allowing establishments to continue operating after the inclusion of a species in the List of IAS of Union concern, albeit under strict conditions to be agreed with the Commission.

The Commission Implementing Regulation updating the list of invasive alien species of Union concern ⁽²⁾ was adopted on 17 July 2025 and published on 18 July 2025 which means that the American mink will be considered an IAS of Union concern as of 7 August 2027, when the restrictions under Article 7 of the regulation will start applying to this species.

Member States may decide to lay down more stringent national rules already before that date. In line with Article 32 keepers of commercial stock of specimens acquired before the listing shall be allowed up to two years after inclusion of the species on the list to keep and transport live specimens in order to slaughter or humanely cull those to exhaust their stock.

The sale or transfer of live specimens to non-commercial users shall be allowed for one year after inclusion of the species on the Union list provided that the specimens are kept and transported in contained holding and all appropriate measures are put in place to ensure that reproduction or escape are not possible.

⁽¹⁾ 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, OJ L 317, 4.11.2014, p. 35.

⁽²⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1422 of 17 July 2025 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1141 to update the list of invasive alien species of Union concern, OJ L, 2025/1422, 18.7.2025.