

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002524/25
to the Commission
Anna Brylka (P/E)
(24 June 2025)

Subject: List of invasive alien species, Part 2

In connection with the decision taken at the 21st meeting of the Committee on Invasive Alien Species on 20 June 2025, could the Commission please urgently provide clarification as to 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:

During the transitional period, will American mink farmers be allowed to:

1. Continue breeding and selling live animals or furs?
2. Invest in farm development and infrastructure?
3. Propagate and transport mink within or outside the EU?

Submitted: 24.6.2025

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

During the deferral period of 24 months after entry into force of the update of the list of invasive alien species (IAS) of Union concern under the Invasive Alien Species Regulation ⁽¹⁾ none of the restrictions under this regulation are applicable. So the activities mentioned by the Honourable Member could continue during these 24 months if not restricted by other legislation.

For the activities mentioned by the Honourable Member other legislation, notably animal welfare ⁽²⁾ and animal health ⁽³⁾ legislation as well as environmental legislation applicable to the individual establishments depending on their size and impacts on the environment continue to apply and need to be respected.

The follow-up to the European Citizen Initiative ‘Fur Free Europe’ may also have an impact on those activities.

The Commission replied in December 2023 with the adoption of a communication ⁽⁴⁾ outlining its legal and political conclusions, as well as the actions it plans to take in response. Member States may have or may decide to lay down more stringent national rules.

⁽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⁾ Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes, OJ L 221, 8.8.1998, pp. 23-27.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health (‘Animal Health Law’), OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, pp. 1-208.

⁽⁴⁾ Communication from The Commission on the European Citizens’ Initiative (ECI) ‘Fur Free Europe’, OJ C, C/2023/1559, 21.12.2023.