

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002525/25
to the Commission
Anna Brylka (PfE)
(24 June 2025)

Subject: List of invasive alien species, Part 3

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:

1. Does the Commission plan to publish binding guidelines or legal interpretations on how the rules apply to mink breeders during the transitional period, in order to ensure legal clarity and predictability for the sector?
2. How does the Commission interpret a situation in which a mink farm — established on the basis of a single environmental decision — was subsequently divided into several independent economic operators operating with the same infrastructure? Will each of these activities be treated as a separate entity in the light of the provisions of Regulation 1143/2014?
3. Can American mink farming in a closed system (without contact with the external environment) be considered acceptable under the exception or derogation provided for in Article 9 of the regulation?

Submitted: 24.6.2025

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

During the deferral period of 24 months for listing the American mink (*Neovison vison*) none of the restrictions from the Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Regulation ⁽¹⁾ apply to this species unless covered by national lists derived from Article 12 of the regulation.

Such transition or deferral periods are not new, they have already been granted for other species under previous Implementing Regulations updating the list of invasive alien species of Union concern. Therefore, the Commission does not plan to issue guidelines or legal interpretations on this matter.

Article 7 of the IAS Regulation specifies the restrictions that are applicable to IAS of Union concern. Article 32 applies to the commercial stocks present at the time of listing.

These Articles apply for all parts of the organism that can reproduce and the Commission makes no distinction between the number of legal entities.

The legal entities would be relevant for Article 9 authorisations, as Member States need to specify, in their request for authorisation, the details of the establishments covered by their request.

Articles 8 and 9 of the IAS Regulation contain detailed provisions on the conditions to be met for permits and authorisations. Permits under Article 9 may only be issued in exceptional cases, for reasons of compelling public interest, including those of a social or economic nature.

In their request for authorisation, Member States must assess the risk of escape and describe the measures envisaged to ensure that escape or spread is 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.