

EN  
E-002603/2025  
Answer given by Ms Roswall  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(29.8.2025)

Article 9 of the Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Regulation<sup>1</sup> provides for authorisations that may be granted by the Commission in exceptional cases, for reasons of compelling public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. If and when an authorisation request arrives from a Member State, the Commission will assess it based on the criteria laid out in the relevant provisions of Articles 8 and 9 of the IAS Regulation.

The Commission responded to the European Citizens' Initiative 'Fur Free Europe' in December 2023 with the adoption of a Communication outlining its legal and political conclusions<sup>2</sup>, as well as the actions it plans to take in response. Any follow up action must be science based, proportionate and effective.

The European Food Safety Authority<sup>3</sup> scientific opinion on the welfare of fur animals, was published on 30 July 2025<sup>4</sup>. The Commission will assess the welfare, economic, social, and environmental consequences of different options, including the bans proposed by the 'Fur Free Europe' Initiative. After it has concluded its assessment, the Commission will publish a Communication announcing its conclusion in terms of the appropriate measure to take and the timeline for any follow-up action.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2023/1559/oj>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2025.9519>.