(English version)

Question for written answer E-003900/25
to the Commission
Sander Smit (PPE)
(3 October 2025)

Subject: Effective control of invasive species: is the Commission taking its responsibility seriously?

In its answer to my written question of 30 July 2025, the Commission states that regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 permits trade only in dead specimens, whereas the question concerned cross-border trade in live specimens and the exemptions provided for in the regulation in this regard. However, the Commission rightly points out the importance of national management plans and cross-border cooperation, which is expressly encouraged in Article 19(5) and may even require the Commission to play a coordinating role. In any event, the Ocean Pact expresses the intention to actively support Member States in combating invasive species.

For this reason, I would like to follow up on my previous question as follows:

1. Is the Commission prepared to take on this coordinating role in order to set out exceptional conditions that would allow commercial fishing and cross-border trade in invasive species, including the live transport of shellfish for consumption, in numerous Member States?

2. Can the Netherlands count on concrete support from the Commission in developing joint management measures to effectively combat the spread of invasive species through commercial fishing and cross-border trade in live specimens?

Submitted: 3.10.2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(8 December 2025)

The Commission does not intend to take on a coordinating role to allow or facilitate commercial fishing and cross-border trade in invasive alien species that are on the Union list, including the transport of live shellfish for consumption. Such a role would contradict both the objectives and the provisions of the Invasive Alien Species Regulation ([1]), which expressly prohibits trade in species on the list of Union concern.

As the Commission noted in its reply to Written Question E-003142/2025, any potential commercialisation of these species would require meeting all the conditions outlined in Article 19(2) of the Invasive Alien Species Regulation. Commercialisation within a Member State or among Member States of live specimens of invasive alien shellfish cannot be carried out in conditions that cannot rule out escape and further spread.

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. 35-55.