

EN

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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(13.10.2026)

An initial assessment was submitted by the United Kingdom in 2016, based on a limited geographical scope which did not include the impact of the species in continental Europe. It was therefore concluded that this could not form a basis for listing Sika deer as an Invasive Alien Species (IAS) of Union concern. A new risk assessment based this time on the impact of the species in the EU27 was therefore concluded in 2022, which was the risk assessment on the basis of which the decision to list the species was taken.

The escapes which the risk assessment¹ highlights include modern time escapes. The Commission has also received information suggesting several recent escapes from facilities holding sika deer in EU Member States. The risk assessment highlights Sika deer as one of the invasive species with significant harmful impacts. It stresses important impacts of Sika deer on the economy, notably agriculture, forestry and transport, and also indicates health risks, as Sika deer can carry diseases and parasites harmful to livestock or humans. Escapes are still occurring with current biosecurity standards. This highlights the need for additional biosecurity conditions beyond the existing national and regional legal frameworks.

Member States may decide to submit an authorisation request in line with Article 9 of the IAS Regulation². The Commission will analyse it based on the legal requirements in the IAS Regulation.

¹ <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/98665af0-7dfa-448c-8bf4-e1e086b50d2c/library/e2ef7135-372a-4dfd-a041-9d31bdc9b112/details>.

² 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.