

**Question for written answer E-002594/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Measures to prevent invasive alien species

The LIFE programme<sup>1</sup> supports the fight against invasive alien species (IAS) and the Commission maintains an open list of IAS of concern. It estimates that, by 2030, Europe should be spending EUR 20 billion per year to protect biodiversity. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)<sup>2</sup> has warned that IAS are the fifth largest cause of biodiversity loss around the world. It has just published its first report on the issue, in which it estimates that IAS cost EUR 392 billion annually, a figure that is 'increasing exponentially'<sup>3</sup>.

1. Given the large number of free trade agreements and the fact that 'primary responsibility' for the spread of IAS continues to lie with 'human beings and trade'<sup>4</sup>, would the Commission consider it legitimate to follow the experts' advice to 'invest in prevention, by setting up teams for the recognition of invasive species in ports and airports'<sup>5</sup>?
2. Could this preventive detection of IAS in addition to proactive measures (including bunker cleaning) be formally incorporated in free trade agreements so that they are compulsory in the third countries concerned before any exports are sent to the EU?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/fr/ip\\_21\\_6178](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/fr/ip_21_6178)

<sup>2</sup> Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

<sup>3</sup> IUCN – French Committee – 4.9.2023 – IPBES publishes the first global assessment on invasive alien species, <https://uicn.fr/ipbes-premiere-evaluation-mondiale-sur-les-especes-exotiques-envahissantes/>

<sup>4</sup> *Le Figaro*, 20/7/2022, 'The EU adds 22 species to its list of invasive alien species of concern', <https://www.lefigaro.fr/sciences/l-ue-ajoute-22-especes-a-sa-liste-des-especes-exotiques-envahissantes-preoccupantes-20220720>.

<sup>5</sup> IPBES – Thematic Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control, IPBES, <https://www.ipbes.net/ias>.