



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the
prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien
species

- Orientation debate

1. The Commission submitted the above-mentioned proposal to the Council and the European Parliament on 9 September 2013.

The Working Party on the Environment examined the proposal at a number of meetings.

2. At this stage of the discussions, the Presidency considers it useful to hold an orientation debate so as to steer further work within the Council. With this objective, the Presidency presents two sets of questions to guide the ministerial debate.

 3. The Committee of Permanent Representatives is invited to consider the questions prepared by the Presidency as set out in the Annex to this Note, and to submit them to Council with a view to the orientation debate at the meeting on 13 December 2013.

 4. The Presidency invites delegations to send written replies before the Council meeting and, where possible, to make joint interventions during the Council meeting.
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Questions for Ministers

1. *Do you consider that the list of invasive alien species of Union concern should be limited in number? Should such list contain only species alien to the territory of the Union? Should there be a mechanism to prioritise the species to be listed? If yes, which criteria should be applied?*

 2. *In your view, should the Regulation include provisions allowing and fostering action against invasive alien species at the level of EU bio-geographic regions? If yes, which should be the main elements of this regional cooperation?*
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