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ENV 428
AGRI 284
PECHE 223
FORETS 21
RECH 282
COMER 56
TRANS 259
SAN 187
DELECT 99

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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40 TRANS 174 SAN 129 DELECT 78 + ADD 1 - C(2018) 2526 final +
Annex

Subject: Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) ... / ... of 30.4. 2018
supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament
and of the Council with regard to risk assessment in relation to invasive
alien species
- Intention not to raise objection to a delegated act

STATEMENT BY DENMARK, SUPPORTED BY GREECE

The Danish Government firmly believes that risk assessments in relation to invasive alien species must contain information from all EU Member States (Article 4(6) and recital 12), including sufficient estimates, to the furthest possible extent, of the potential costs of damage (cf. point (g) of Article 5(1) in the Regulation on invasive alien species) as well as a description of the known uses for the species and social and economic benefits deriving from those uses (cf. point (h) of Article 5(1)).

The Danish Government puts strong emphasis on these elements being shown as a critical part of the risk assessments since the economic aspects are included in the consideration on whether a species should be listed. In light of recent experiences related to the risk assessment of American mink, Denmark is extremely worried that a risk assessment may be approved by the Scientific Forum without the significant economic consequences of a listing having been estimated or reflected in the conclusion. The Danish Government does not believe that there are sufficient specific requirements relating to the social and economic benefits to be derived from using a species in the proposal put forward by the Commission. Consequently, the Danish Government would strongly argue that risk assessments must disclose and display, for example, the turnover as well as derived effects and number of jobs from using a particular species. Only in this way can we be sure that the damage caused by a species and the socioeconomic consequences of a listing are weighed up against each other and that the Committee on Invasive Alien Species can make an informed decision about listing a species.

Denmark will continue to work for a more formalised process regarding risk management so that evidence of the economic aspects in Article 4(3) and (6) of the Regulation on invasive alien species are collected and transferred to the Committee on Invasive Alien Species. The Danish Government wants to see Member State obligations balanced in relation to the actual risks and potential damage caused by the particular invasive alien species on one hand and the resource implications of listing on the other. The Danish Government believes that it is a critical situation that a subsequent formalised process for the collection of adequate and consolidated information on the socioeconomic consequences still does not exist.

Based on the concerns and views set out in this statement, the Danish Government, with the support of Greece, objects to the approval of the abovementioned Delegated Regulation.