

**Question for written answer E-011123/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Alyn Smith (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Ortolans in France

The ortolan is protected under Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds and is also included in the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list of endangered species. Regardless of this, thousands of ortolans are captured and slaughtered each year at the end of summer, particularly in France.

Despite the practice being illegal under both French and EU law, the legislation is often ignored and the illegal capture and killing of ortolans still occurs, especially in the south-west of France.

The Commission has previously stated that it will not rule out the possibility of opening infringement proceedings. As such, could the Commission outline what measures it is taking, as well as those measures, if any, which have already been implemented, to put a stop to this illegal practice?