

**Question for written answer E-010094/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: LIFE Ursus project in Trentino

The LIFE Ursus project, intended to save the last of the brown bears in the Alps, began in 1996 with EU LIFE funding, leading to their reappearance, especially in the Autonomous Province of Trento.

The project has undoubtedly achieved its purpose, the problem being, however, that the number of bears now officially exceeds 50 or, according to other estimates, 70.

The bears now constitute a real danger since, in addition their repeated attacks on sheep, they have on a number of occasions come into close contact with humans for example in Cadine (TN) resulting in injury and placing lives at risk.

The Trento provincial authorities have responded by posting warnings in forest areas, thereby fuelling a wave of controversy given the risk to human life.

In view of this:

— Can the Commission say whether the LIFE Ursus project may in fact be creating a dangerous situation?

— Does it consider that protecting human life must take priority over all other considerations?

— What view does it take of the management of the project to date by the Autonomous Province of Trento?