

Question for written answer E-012451/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Clare Moody (S&D)

Subject: Birds Directive - finch trapping in Malta

Despite agreeing to end the trapping of finches as part of its accession to the European Union, Malta continues to apply derogations from the Birds Directive to continue the practice of trapping birds. A derogation for the trapping of golden plover and song thrush has been at the Reasoned Opinion stage of the infringement procedure since 2012. The Reasoned Opinion notes that the trapping of these birds is widely used as cover for the trapping of finches, which is not permitted because finches are protected under Annex I of the Birds Directive.

Will the Commission now act to take this derogation for the trapping of golden plover and song thrush to the European Court of Justice at the same time and pace that it is acting to stop the finch trapping derogation in Malta? This would prevent this derogation being used as cover for finch trapping.