

**Question for written answer E-014103/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Clare Moody (S&D)**

Subject: Balearic shearwater birds

The Balearic shearwater is a bird which nests off the Balearics but forages off Catalonia, France, Portugal and the UK; this makes it a truly 'European' bird.

It is Europe's only critically endangered seabird and will become extinct in the next few decades unless action is taken. The Balearic shearwater also breeds rarely, meaning that every death has a disproportionate impact on the species' survival.

The main cause of its decline is demersal longline fishing. The birds drown on the longline hooks while following the bait down to the seabed as the lines are dropped during what is known as 'setting the lines'.

Balearic shearwaters only feed during the day; so therefore, limiting the setting of longlines to night time is a potential solution to the problem that is both simple and cost effective.

The cause of the birds' decline is as a result of human action, meaning that it would be a failure of European environmental policy if the bird becomes extinct.

Does the Commission intend to impose limiting the setting of lines to night time?