

**Question for written answer E-002000/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Glenis Willmott (S&D) and Catherine Stihler (S&D)

Subject: Goose cull in Islay

The Scottish Nature Association has published a new goose management strategy relating to the isle of Islay. It has long been accepted that grazing geese impact farm pastures on Islay, but equally that there are serious conservation concerns about migrating Barnacle geese as a species. This strategy includes a major increase in the number of geese shot under licence, and wildlife charities have expressed concern that it contravenes the Birds Directive.

1. The strategy claims that it is using an 'active management' approach, which means that less evidence is needed to justify a cull. Does the Commission provide guidance on active management?
2. Has the Commission provided any guidance to the Scottish Government on its goose management strategy?
3. Is the Commission aware of the concerns of wildlife and nature charities in the UK in relation to this issue?