

**Question for written answer E-003985/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță (S&D)

Subject: Seabirds

Seabirds are currently recognised as one of the most threatened groups of birds. One species is at particular risk of extinction in Europe: the critically endangered Balearic shearwater. With a population currently estimated at 20 000-30 000 individuals, the equivalent of over 7 000 pairs of breeding birds, research using over 30 years of monitoring data has predicted that extinction is likely to occur in approximately 60 years.

Apart from predation by cats in certain colonies, it has been suggested by scientists that the main cause of adult deaths is accidental capture in fishing gear (bycatch). However, scientific information directly linking bycatch to population declines is lacking.

Is the EU intending to work jointly with researchers in order to understand the reasons why birds have been caught at certain times and not others, and to find better solutions to protect these birds in their existence alongside the fishing fleet?