

**Question for written answer E-004370/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Hedgehog protection

Experts state that hedgehogs are likely to have almost disappeared by 2025. In the UK, for example, the hedgehog population has fallen from 36.5 million in the 1950s to less than a million today. In France, 1.8 million hedgehogs die each year, according to initial estimates. There is no national monitoring of the gradual extinction of the species in other European countries. Road traffic and pesticides are the two main dangers that hedgehogs currently face.

That is why French political figures, activists, vets and internet users have signed a petition to save hedgehogs in danger ('Sauvons les hérissons en danger!'). It suggests solutions to address the urgency of the situation. Moreover, other associations are wanting to introduce 'wildlife crossings', which are secure tunnels allowing hedgehogs and other animals to safely cross roads.

1. Has the Commission taken note of the petition's findings and proposals?
2. In the context of its biodiversity protection policies, does the Commission intend to take action to support the numerous hedgehog protection initiatives?