

**Question for written answer E-004931/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Mass extinction of animal populations

A study by American and Mexican researchers published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* on 10 July graphically warns that animal populations are disappearing. Following on from an earlier WWF study in October 2016, this study confirms that the decline in animal populations is taking place on a colossal scale, amounting to 50% in the last 40 years.

These population losses are affecting all animal species, even the most common. They are also adding to the decline of species already endangered or else are a prelude to extinction. This situation, then, is extremely serious, as it appears to be leading to a sixth mass extinction. The priority must be to abandon ways of thinking which are driving what is already being called 'biological annihilation'.

Does the Commission have an overall (animal and plant) life conservation strategy to serve as a reference point for policies?

As regards trade agreements, whether under negotiation or already in existence, will it provide in the 'sustainable development' chapters for life conservation clauses to prevent harmful human activities and the commodity trading and trafficking which are causing the destruction of habitats?