

**Question for written answer E-005885/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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**Subject:** Opinion of the Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) on the imposition of hunting limits and the conduct of the Italian Government and regions

The weather situation this year has resulted in high temperatures, long periods of drought and a dramatic rise in the number of fires and extension of the areas affected by fire.

In a note, ISPRA has pointed out that this situation causes great stress to many ecosystems and poses a risk to wildlife across broad swathes of the country, having adverse effects on the population dynamics of numerous species<sup>1</sup>.

In accordance with the precautionary principle, ISPRA has called for the adoption of precautionary measures (such as the suspension of permits for the training of hunting dogs, a ban on blind hunting, hunting limits on resident species, water birds and in areas affected by fires)<sup>2</sup>.

However, the call has not been heeded and hunting has been permitted without any particular precautions in all regions, with government endorsement<sup>3</sup>.

Given the above, and given that the EU's natural capital is in danger, as indicated by the ever-negative trend of the available indicators on the achievement of the biodiversity<sup>4</sup> conservation targets by 2020, can the Commission clarify:

- whether it intends to raise this issue with the Italian authorities;
- whether it has detected any irregularities in the Italian hunting calendars;
- whether the issues described above are adversely affecting the proper implementation of Directives 92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC in Italy?

Supporter<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.isprambiente.gov.it/it/newsletter-1/caldo-afoso-siccita-e-troppi-incendi.-ispra-201cl2019avifauna-e-a-rischio-bisogna-intervenire-sulla-caccia201d>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.isprambiente.gov.it/it/news/limitazioni-all2019attivita-venatoria-a-causa-della-siccita-e-degli-incendi-che-hanno-colpito-il-paese>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.enpa.it/it/31641/cnt/i-fatti/caccia-da-domenica-altro-piombo-su-un-territorio-g.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/environmental-indicator-report-2016>.

<sup>5</sup> This question is supported by a Member other than the author(s): Rosa D'Amato (EFDD)