

**Question for written answer E-001643/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Carolina Punset (ALDE)

Subject: Use of snares and traps to control predators and the population of the Iberian lynx and of other protected species

Castilla-La Mancha and other autonomous regions in Spain, which have full competence in the area of environmental protection, have approved the use of snares and traps for the control of predators, including the Belisle Selectif trap, the Larssen cage trap and side-door cage traps¹.

The purpose of these traps is to reduce fox populations in hunting areas, but experience shows that other species, such as the Iberian lynx, the wolf, the wildcat and birds of prey, are also caught.

If foxes, dogs, cats or magpies are caught, the autonomous authorities allow the animals to be killed on the spot with a shot in the head².

There have been a number of registered cases of snares in hunting areas capturing lynx – identified by transmitter collars – sometimes resulting in the death of the animal³, which leads one to believe that other individuals lacking such a tracking device may also have been captured.

The approval of these traps was carried out without any scientific basis and without an assessment of their impact on the target populations.

In addition, lethal management has little or no effect on predation in the event of coexistence of other species⁴.

Does the Commission consider the use of these traps to be compatible with the protection of endangered species?

¹ <http://www.europapress.es/castilla-lamancha/noticia-homologadas-lm-trampas-belisle-selectif-nasa-lateral-jaula-larssen-control-depredadores-20171121094724.html>

² <http://www.europapress.es/castilla-lamancha/noticia-plataforma-contra-ley-caza-recurrira-tribunales-autorizacion-nuevas-trampas-cazar-predadores-20171123113641.html>.

³ <http://www.diariojaen.es/provincia/muere-en-un-coto-de-jimena-un-lince-atrapado-en-un-lazo-DI2486104>

⁴ http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL_STU%282018%29596844