

**Question for written answer E-002160/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Bas Eickhout (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Millions of birds killed by olive-harvesting at night

Scientists writing in the scientific journal Nature have called for a ban on mechanical harvesting of olives at night. Research shows that this kills millions of birds every year, as they are sucked into machinery while roosting in olive trees¹. I would like to ask a number of follow-up questions prompted by previous Commission replies on this issue². The Andalusian authorities have now concluded that a ban on harvesting olives at night would be the best solution, but so far this has not led to any action, nor has any action been taken in the other countries and regions where farmers have adopted this practice³.

1. Is the Commission in contact with the Member States where olives are harvested in the above way? If so, what progress is being made by means of such communication? If not, why not?
2. What will the Commission do to ensure that Member States take practical measures well before the next harvest season begins?
3. What other steps has the Commission taken in response to the research and the appeal by scientists?

¹ <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-01456-4?fbclid=IwAR2XeSZnNWlrPA09qvOeLRNfzIJ4HKzpDgaMWnCwVvy5z1rxYr6ABTDUL8CE>

² http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-8-2019-001042-ASW_EN.html

³ <https://www.oliveoiltimes.com/olive-oil-basics/millions-of-birds-killed-by-nighttime-harvesting-in-mediterranean/68111>