

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1599/09

by Kathalijne Maria Buitenweg (Verts/ALE) and Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Leaving animal carcasses in the open in nature reserves

In its answer to written questions E-4427/07 and E-4428/07 the Commission stated that it would hold a thorough exchange of views with bird protectionists and the Spanish authorities to find out what options are available under the current rules for domestic animal carcasses to be left in the open. The Commission also said it would try, in this exchange of views, to identify in which respect modifications to the current rules could be envisaged.

Wild mammal carcasses left in the open have not led to any dangers for animal or human health in the Netherlands and other countries of Europe. In the natural world, animal carcasses are very important for the development of biodiversity and in particular for the many carrion-eaters including sea eagles, vultures, ravens and a wide variety of insects as well as many carnivores.

1. What has been the outcome of the above-mentioned thorough exchange of views with bird protectionists and the Spanish authorities?
2. Does the Commission consider that current Community legislation, particularly Directive 79/409/EEC<sup>1</sup>, constitutes an obstacle to leaving large herbivore carcasses in European nature reserves such as the 'Spoor A' ('Track A') reserves in the Netherlands?
3. If so, does the Commission intend to propose concrete amendments to permit large herbivore carcasses to be left for environmental reasons in areas where this poses no risk to animal or human health?
4. If not, what will the Commission do to improve the survival chances of carrion species which live on large herbivores?
5. Does the Commission propose to accord the same status to cattle and horses living wild in nature reserves as to wild animals, and thus apply the same legislation to them?
6. There is much confusion in the Member States about what legislation applies to the leaving of animal carcasses in nature reserves, both in large-scale 'Spoor A' reserves and in smaller reserves. Does European or national law apply in this area?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 103, 25.4.1979, p.1.