

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3611/09
by Zdzisław Kazimierz Chmielewski (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Management of cormorants

On 1 May I received a letter of protest from the Chairman of the board of directors of the Association of Fish Producers, Mr Krzysztof Karoń, in connection with the havoc caused by cormorants in fish farms. Parliament's Committee on Fisheries recently highlighted the possibility of controlling the cormorant population by, among other things, reducing breeding rates. However, in the Baltic States these issues are a cause of much controversy.

I would therefore like to request specific assistance from the Commission. What other control measures does the Commission recommend for the cormorant population, in legal terms (powers) and in terms of protection measures by fishermen? To what extent should these protection measures be correlated with national environmental protection requirements?

Given the urgency of the matter I would be grateful if the Commission could reply as soon as possible.