

**Question for written answer E-000036/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Sandrine Bélier (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Protection of the lynx in the Vosges (France)

In the European Union, the Eurasian lynx is a protected species under Annexes II, III and IV to the Habitats Directive. In France, it is protected by the law of 10 July 1976 on nature protection and by the ministerial decree of 17 April 1981 on mammals (updated on 23 April 2007). However, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Animals classifies the species as 'endangered' in France. Environmental protection associations have observed a decrease in lynx numbers in the Vosges, whilst the size of the population in the Jura seems to be stagnating (source: wolf/lynx network at the National Board for Hunting and Wild Fauna (ONCFS)). According to the ONCFS wolf/lynx network, only one lynx was spotted in the Vosges during the 2013 winter monitoring exercise.

The future of the lynx in France is thus uncertain and calls for great vigilance. Despite appeals by nature conservation associations and scientists, the lynx has not been made the subject of any national conservation plan, unlike the wolf or the bear, for example (a conservation and restoration plan for the brown bear was implemented in the Pyrenees until 2009).

Is the Commission aware of the threats to the Eurasian lynx in Europe, and in France in particular?

What national protection measures could be taken? Would a national conservation plan afford this species of Community interest better protection?