

**Question for written answer E-004874/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Werner Langen (PPE)

Subject: Minimum distance from red kite nesting sites in Rhineland-Palatinate

The red kite is considered to be a species which is vulnerable to wind turbines. This means that it is particularly susceptible to colliding with wind turbines or being struck and killed by their blades.

The Rhineland-Palatinate Environment Agency has published new guidelines for case-by-case decision making on minimum distances between wind turbines and red kite nesting sites. These guidelines reduce the minimum distance to 500 m and describe a case-by-case approach for the area between 500 and 4 000 m.

1) Are these new guidelines, 'Naturschutzfachliche Rahmen zum Ausbau der Windenergie in Rheinland-Pfalz', and the clarifying document for evaluating individual cases, 'Leitfaden zur visuellen Rotmilan-Raumnutzung', compatible with the corresponding EU law — i.e. the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Directive 2001/42/EC and Directive 2011/92/EU?

2) In what ways might the Commission potentially be able to intervene?

3) What is the Commission's opinion on the potential for conflict between wind turbines and the rules on bird protection?