

**Question for written answer E-003647/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Failure by Italian regions to protect the Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) and Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)

The Commission (Note ARES 2019-3896523 of 19 June 2019) and the Ministry of the Environment (Note 16169 of 9 July 2019) have asked the Italian regions and the autonomous provinces to exclude the Northern Lapwing and the Common Pochard from the list of huntable species. Although the Commission deems it appropriate to suspend the hunting of these species, with specific reference to the provisions of Article 7 of the 'Birds' Directive 2009/147/EC, which provides that the hunting of these species must not jeopardise conservation efforts in their distribution area, virtually all the regions concerned have included these two species in their respective hunting calendars.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Does the above situation affect the proper application of Directive 2009/147/EC in Italy?
2. How will it intervene to ensure the full implementation of the aforementioned Directive by the Italian regions?