

**Question for written answer E-000277/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: When will a European cormorant control plan be adopted?

An alarm has recently been sounded by fishermen in Lake Garda regarding large flocks of cormorants that are consuming almost two-and-a-half tonnes of fish per day. Cormorants, which now have no natural enemies, are contributing to the decimation of fish stocks, not least because of the large numbers of fish left injured by unsuccessful attempts to catch them. This situation become increasingly untenable in some parts of Europe. On 14 December 2008, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the adoption of a European Cormorant Management Plan to minimise the increasing impact of cormorants on fish stocks, fishing and aquaculture. In view of this:

1. When will the Commission adopt a European cormorant management plan?
2. Does the Commission not consider it desirable commence consultations between the competent authorities and stakeholders in the fisheries, aquaculture and sport fisheries sectors to decide what action should be taken to manage the situation at EU level, including exemptions under Article 9 of the Birds Directive?