

**Question for written answer E-000556/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Controlling opportunistic predatory species within Member States to protect vulnerable species

Many Member States have seen an appreciable rise in opportunistic predatory species in recent years, as demonstrated by the latest report under Article 12 of the Birds Directive. The undisputed increase in these species is turning into a serious danger for more vulnerable species, and in particular ground-nesting birds. It is no accident that some international action plans endorsed by the Commission make control of predators a priority in order to bring certain species back up to favourable conservation status. In many areas the presence of foxes, corvids, herring gulls, herons and bitterns is causing reproductive success rates to fall to a minimum, jeopardising population recovery and conservation. Even if management of wildlife heritage is a Member State competence, it is understood that as with combating invasive alien species (IAS), the Commission may, from a general perspective of protecting biodiversity, produce guidelines for the stakeholders concerned, such as farmers, owners of agricultural holdings, hunters and fishers, who can put effective measures in place.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission plan to produce guidelines on combating opportunistic predators, with a list of species maybe, and suggesting measures to be taken?
2. Does the Commission plan to monitor and intervene with Member States that do not control opportunistic species in order to bring species in decline back to favourable status?

Supporters¹

¹ This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Gianantonio Da Re (ID), Isabella Tovaglieri (ID)