

**Question for written answer E-002762/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Bird hunting in a protected area in the province of Ourense

Every year, the Xunta de Galicia authorises hunting in the SPA of A Limia, an area which also includes the SCI of Veiga de Ponteliñares. The so-called 'half season' is permitted during this period, whereby different birds can be hunted despite warnings by conservationists. One of the species likely to suffer from these illegal hunts is the European turtle dove, whose numbers are in sharp decline. In Spain, the Commission has launched infringement proceedings for the hunting of this species, including a reasoned opinion published in December 2020<sup>1</sup>.

Lead hunting is a danger to birds and accidental lead poisoning is one of the main causes of their decline in number. The use of lead gunshot in a SPA or SCI does not appear to conform to Regulation (EU) 2021/57<sup>2</sup>, which limits its use in wetlands.

Does the Commission plan to curb hunting in the protected area of A Limia? Does the Commission intend to investigate the problem of lead poisoning in special protection areas for birds in Galicia? What measures does the Commission intend to implement to prevent infringements of Directive 2009/147/EC<sup>3</sup> and Regulation (EU) 2021/57 in Galicia?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/inf\\_20\\_2142](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/inf_20_2142)

<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R0057>

<sup>3</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32009L0147>