

**Question for written answer E-003081/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Request for action to protect migratory birds outside Europe

Although the Member States have been working on the conservation of their bird species populations for decades using various tools such as the EU Nature Directives, international action plans and national schemes, and by combating the illegal killing of birds at the international¹ and national levels, millions of birds are illegally killed each year in non-EU countries using nets, traps, calling devices and other techniques. Many of the bird species targeted are migratory species that breed in the EU but winter outside of the EU, where illegal killings take place.

We would therefore like to ask the following questions:

1. Does the Commission consider the illegal killing of birds outside of the EU to jeopardise the Member States' work on bird species conservation, and, if so, what actions does it intend to take to address the matter?
2. Will it consider applying more pressure on the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals to work with the non-EU range states concerned?

¹ E.g. joint missions between the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats and the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean.