

**Question for written answer E-000080/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Aurélia Beigneux (ID)**

Subject: Illegal international trafficking of the European goldfinch

On both sides of the Mediterranean, in southern France and even more so in north-west Africa, the European goldfinch is facing extinction. So many are being caught in the wild that the species is now under threat. With its lively, vibrant and distinctive call, the European goldfinch is a prime target for poachers and can be sold for more than EUR 500.

Considered to be vulnerable in France, the European goldfinch population has fallen by almost 40% in 10 years as a result of poaching, according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, with 'numbers of birds caught likely to be in the thousands'.

The trafficking continues unabated, spilling across EU borders in the absence of checks within the Schengen area. European Goldfinches from North Africa are imported into France, with some also going through Spain or Belgium, where the legislation is more lax.

In view of the above:

1. What does the Commission intend to do to end the illegal trafficking which is putting this endangered species at risk?
2. Will the EU introduce better monitoring of wildlife trafficking?