Question for written answer E-000520/2022

to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: Blanket amnesty for registration of hunting trophies

Hunters as well as private collectors may own bird or mammal species that were not protected animals at the time of killing but are now classified as protected or critically endangered under several national laws. Another example is catching an animal in another destination where the species is not regarded as endangered. Therefore, these animals are hunted according to the existing laws at the given location. To judge the hunting of a species in the destination that the hunting trophy is exported to according to local regulations simply because that same species is endangered in that destination would be a major error.

When registering a hunting trophy, it is sometimes difficult to verify whether the trophy or taxidermy was hunted in good faith in accordance with the regulations in force at the time, or whether the owner acquired it by inheritance or accidental purchase. It is for these reasons that large numbers of hunting trophies remain unregistered.

One solution would be a blanket amnesty for the registration of trophies and taxidermies. In this connection:

1. To what extent is the Commission aware of this issue?
2. Is the Commission considering a blanket amnesty for the registration of trophies and taxidermies?
3. If not, how does the Commission plan to simplify the registration of hunting trophies and taxidermies?