

**Question for written answer E-003079/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: A ban on badger and fox baiting

Badger and fox baiting is a barbarous practice. The animals are kept cornered by dogs for several hours in their earths or setts and then dug out using tongs, before killing them with knives or beating them to death with shovels or iron bars. Sometimes the cubs are even thrown alive to the dogs.

This cruel practice is also harmful to the environment. Firstly, badgers have a low reproduction rate and many are killed accidentally on the roads. A fragile species, badgers are listed in Appendix III (Protected fauna species) to the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. Secondly, foxes and badgers keep down populations of rodents that damage crops and are disease carriers; rodents spread the ticks responsible for Lyme disease, for example.

Would the Commission be willing to propose to the Council of Europe, as the institution behind the Bern Convention, that badger and fox baiting be included in Appendix IV of the Convention (Prohibited means and methods of killing, capture and other forms of exploitation)?