

**Question for written answer E-003545/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Fighting against the enclosure of our forests

In France, more and more large landowners are fencing off their forests, particularly in Sologne, but also in Sancerrois, Brenne, Picardy and the Landes. These fences, which are more than two metres high and buried in the ground, are causing the fragmentation of forests.

Hares, deer, roe deer and wild boar thus become prisoners and lose their wild nature, especially as they are fed with grain and fodder. Having become semi-domesticated, the game is then hunted at weekends with no difficulty, since it cannot escape. The animals, which are killed in excessively large numbers, are sometimes buried on properties using small backhoes.

This unethical hunting is dangerous for the ecosystem, as it leads animals to inbreed, weakening their genetic diversity, and to eat all new tree shoots, preventing the natural renewal of the forest.

It is opposed by real hunters, local elected officials, walkers, sportsmen and tourists, who all share the objective of preserving the forest and the wildlife.

1. Has the Commission noted the expansion of the enclosure of forests in other EU Member States?
2. Does the Commission intend to fight against the enclosure of forests as part of its new EU Forest Strategy for 2030?