

**Question for written answer E-000177/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Hedgehog at risk of extinction by 2025

A small mainly insectivorous mammal, the hedgehog is a species on the verge of extinction. Indeed, many scientists are sounding the alarm and believe that it could disappear completely by 2025.

Especially beloved of gardeners, this animal plays a vital role in preserving the biodiversity and balance of green spaces. Feeding on slugs, locusts, crickets and even snails, it offers a natural method of getting rid of harmful insects.

Unfortunately, human activity poses serious dangers to this species, which is harmed by pesticides, excessive urbanisation and road traffic. Its population has thus shrunk by 57% in 20 years.

In view of the above, I ask the Commission:

1. Is the hedgehog covered by the EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030? If so, what mechanisms are in place for it?
2. Does the Commission intend to help the Member States to preserve this species?
3. Does the Commission intend to add the hedgehog, which is directly affected by the deterioration of its natural habitat, to the list of species protected by the Habitats Directive?

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