

**Question for written answer E-001520/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Norbert Lins (PPE)

Subject: Cormorant populations

Cormorant populations are steadily growing in parts of Germany and Europe. For years, this has put regional fisheries and the survival of smaller enterprises at risk. The growing cormorant population threatens protected and endangered fish species such as eel, vairone, grayling, nase, barbel, lamprey and brown trout. In addition, populations of fish species that are important for commercial fishing, such as perch and pike-perch, can also be impaired by cormorant predation, resulting in smaller catch yields.

Furthermore, in its answer to parliamentary question E-004736/2016, almost seven years ago, the Commission referred to two projects whose results did not, in the Commission's view, justify a change to its policy at that time of recommending the use of the derogations foreseen in Article 9 of the Birds Directive¹.

1. What measures have been taken across the EU to mitigate the damage caused by cormorant populations and to safeguard protected and endangered fish species?
2. When is the Commission planning to revise the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC and thereby explicitly include cormorants in Annex II and, if no revision is planned, why not?
3. Which studies and projects has the Commission initiated and supported in the time since the answer to the above question, and does the currently available data lead the Commission to draw the same conclusion?

Submitted: 10.5.2023

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-8-2016-004736-ASW_EN.pdf