

**Question for written answer E-002887/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Roman Haider (ID)

Subject: Increase in the bear population in Romania

At present there are an estimated 7500 to 8000 bears in Romania. Between 2016 and 2021, there were 154 attacks by bears; 14 people died and 158 others were injured. The Romanian Government would now like to authorise the shooting of 426 bears¹. In September 2023, Romania's Minister for the Environment proposed 'exporting' bears to other EU Member States². Overall, the populations of some protected species have recovered far beyond the conservation level, meaning that there should be a reassessment of the strict protection stipulated in Annex IV to the Habitats Directive. For other species, however, the trend is negative. Accordingly, following on from reassessment, the protected status for them should be upgraded.

1. What is the Commission's view of the proposal to carry out a periodic assessment of all protected species listed in Annexes IV and V to Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)?
2. What measures does the Commission intend to take to help Romania solve the problem of the increasing bear population?
3. What is the Commission's position on the proposal to 'export' bears from Romania to other EU Member States?

Submitted: 2.10.2023

¹ <https://www.mdr.de/nachrichten/welt/panorama/rumaenien-ueberbevoelkerung-braunbaeren-debatte-abschuss-100.html>

² <https://www.zdf.de/politik/auslandsjournal/auslandsjournal-vom-27-september-2023-100.html>