

**Question for written answer E-000513/2024  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**César Luena (S&D)**

Subject: La Rioja biodiversity law

The La Rioja biodiversity law was passed in 2023 to protect the region's environmental assets.

After the region's government changed, the new executive launched a process to modify that law, removing 239 species from the La Rioja list of wild species under special protection and deleting the title on including environmental conservation and restoration across sector-based policies.

The changes are not backed up by any scientific studies to justify reducing protection for those 239 species, which include some at risk of extinction, such as the bearded vulture.

1. Is the Commission aware of this state of affairs?
2. What mechanisms does the Commission have in place to ensure that these changes – devoid of any scientific backing – do not undermine the objectives of directives on nature, the protection of endangered species and conservation of native wildlife?
3. Does the Commission believe that removing cross-cutting provisions on environmental conservation and restoration from sector-based policies is in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the COP15 Global Biodiversity Framework?

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