

WRITTEN QUESTION P-4304/08
by Michl Ebner (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Minimum amount insured under civil liability insurance for hunting in EU Member States

In many EU Member States, taking out civil liability insurance for hunting is a precondition of obtaining a valid hunting licence, with the amount covered by such insurance generally running into millions. The minimum amount covered is often set by law, as for example in the case of the German Federal Hunting Act. Section 17 of the said Act sets the minimum amounts covered at EUR 50 000 for material damages and EUR 500 000 for personal damages.

Despite measures to harmonise the European insurance sector – based, in the case of civil liability insurance, on Council Directive 73/239/EEC¹ – there remain significant divergences within the EU. The amounts covered by civil liability insurance for hunting in certain EU countries, particularly the new Member States, are well below the European average. In Hungary, the amount for personal damages is between EUR 22 000 and EUR 44 000, which would fall far short of the costs arising from serious injury. In this connection, we are aware of a case in which an Austrian professional hunter was shot and seriously injured during a hunting trip in Hungary. The costs arising from this were nowhere near covered by the Hungarian civil liability insurance for hunting taken out by the person responsible for the accident.

The provisions and standards relating to civil liability insurance for hunting should as far as possible be standardised so that professional and amateur hunters are subject to the same requirements in all Member States.

For this reason I ask the Commission whether it is aware of these significant divergences, and whether it has already looked into the matter of civil liability insurance for hunting.

What steps does the Commission intend to take towards harmonising civil liability insurance for hunting?

¹ OJ L 228, 16.08.1973, p. 3.