

**Priority question for written answer P-001964/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

David McAllister (PPE)

Subject: Future management of the carp pond farming habitat

Sustainable, extensive carp pond farming with water retention and drainage management and periodically drained pond floors provides a habitat and a nutritional basis for a large number of protected species. There are some species and biotic communities which can survive only in this habitat, which is laboriously looked after by the pond farmers. Pond farming is of great importance in safeguarding this valuable habitat type in the context of legislation under the Habitats Directive.

The substantial cost of aquatic landscape management (dams, barrages, pond floors, plant control, fish biomass) and the persistently high predation pressure on fish stocks from cormorants, herons, otters, etc. represents a considerable economic challenge for this method of farming. If these areas had to be relinquished, they would quickly become overgrown with bushes and trees.

1. What action does the Commission regard as appropriate in order to safeguard biodiversity in carp pond farming in a sustainable and lasting way?
2. What measures will the Commission take to improve the future protection and long-term preservation of carp pond farming areas located in Habitats Directive zones, for example by calling on the Member States to increase their contractual nature conservation?
3. What future funding options might ensure the preservation of carp pond farming areas?