

**Priority question for written answer P-003439/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Planning and financial instruments to help protect sturgeon

According to the latest International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List assessment, the decline of Eurasian sturgeon species is continuing unabatedly. While in some other parts of the world sturgeon populations are recovering, the situation of the last remaining sturgeon in the EU is very critical and their survival is no longer secure, with one species having been newly classified as locally extinct in the Danube. The draft Danube river basin management plan (RBMP) section 8.1.5.3 entitled 'Morphological Alterations' lists only one activity related to the management objective of restoration, namely specification of location and the extent of measures for the improvement of river morphology that will be implemented by 2027 by each country.

In the light of the above:

1. What action is the Commission taking to ensure that habitats for sturgeon and other migratory fish in the Danube are properly protected, in the context of both the Danube RBMP update, the national RBMPs and the nature restoration law currently in preparation?
2. How will the contribution of national RBMPs to restoring 25 000 km of rivers be checked and ensured, given that no actual restoration action is proposed in the Danube RBMP?
3. How will NextGenerationEU and multiannual financial framework funding be secured for restoration action if no action is explicitly mentioned in the relevant planning document?