

**Priority question for written answer P-005273/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU/Council of Europe project to implement the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons

Fifty countries and the European Union have signed up to the Bern Convention and committed to promoting national conservation policies. At the annual standing committee meeting of the Bern Convention in 2018, the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons was adopted and a mandate to coordinate its implementation was given to the secretariat. It had not even started to fulfil its mandate when, owing to a recent internal decision of the Council of Europe, the draft project proposal for a joint Council of Europe/EU programme on coordinating the implementation of the action plan did not receive the necessary internal administrative visa from the Council of Europe.

1. What steps is the Commission taking to try to reverse the decision of the Council of Europe?
2. If the Council of Europe fails to support its own convention, will the Commission seek options to fill the funding gap to allow the project to go forward?
3. What actions will the Commission commit to take to support the survival of the remaining critically endangered sturgeon populations, and within which timelines in the short and medium term?