

**Priority question for written answer P-002541/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jutta Paulus (Verts/ALE), **Malte Gallée** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Violation of the Habitats Directive in Bavaria in relation to the Eurasian otter

The Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*) is an endangered species listed under Annex II (Animal and plant species of Community interest whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation) and Annex IV (Animal and plant species of Community interest in need of strict protection) of the Habitats Directive¹. There are several sites of Community importance designated for the Eurasian otter in the Bavarian regions of Lower Bavaria and the Upper Palatinate².

Since 1 August 2023, a state law has allowed the killing of the Eurasian otter without individual exemptions in all districts of Lower Bavaria and almost all of the Upper Palatinate (except Neumarkt)³.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of this recent legislative development in Bavaria?
2. What does it intend to do regarding the violation of the Eurasian otter's strict protection status and the sites of importance for its conservation?

Submitted: 5.9.2023

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7).

² <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/figures/sites-of-community-importance-sci>.

³ <https://www.stmelf.bayern.de/service/presse/pm/2023/verordnung-zur-leichterem-fischotter-entnahme/index.html>.