

**Priority question for written answer P-001136/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Repeated violations of Birds Directive and possible launch of infringement procedure as follow-up to EU Pilot procedure 2023/10542

Lombardy Region has replaced Article 26 of Regional Law 26/1993 with Regional Law 2/2023, which, in contrast to Article 5(7) of National Law 157/92, allows the replacement of non-removable leg rings fitted on live decoys used for hunting with small plastic bands that can easily be tampered with. This completely undermines efforts to combat illegal trafficking of illegally caught live decoys and lets off the hook individuals in possession of birds fitted with fake rings.

It also issued Decision XII/1849 of 5 February 2024, setting up an empty decoy database without any traceability and without any obligation to enter the identification number on the rings of captive-bred birds or of the aforementioned new bands.

The Commission has initiated EU Pilot procedure 2023/10542 against Italy for violating the European rules on hunting laid down in Directive 2009/147/EC (the Birds Directive), including by failing to implement the action plan for tackling offences committed against wild birds.

It should be noted that Lombardy is one of Italy's seven poaching 'black spots'.

In view of this, can the Commission clarify whether it intends to consider launching a formal infringement procedure against Italy concerning EU Pilot procedure 2023/10542, specifically for the illegal capture, killing and trade in birds, in light of the systematic violations of the Birds Directive?

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