

Question for written answer E-003865/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Towards a coordinated EU response on cormorant management

The rise in cormorant populations has become a significant concern across Europe, creating pressure on fisheries and aquatic ecosystems. Current management relies mainly on derogations under the Birds Directive¹, but these are widely seen as administratively burdensome and insufficient to respond to local realities. At the same time, proposals to include the cormorant in Annex II of the Birds Directive, which would allow sustainable and regulated hunting, face the obstacle of a complex and lengthy legislative revision.

This situation leaves a gap between the urgent need for a coordinated approach to population management and the limited tools currently available, meaning that local actors often struggle to respond effectively. Without a more flexible and harmonised framework at EU level, both the environmental balance and economic activities risk being further strained.

In the light of these challenges, what measures will the Commission put forward to reduce administrative burdens, strengthen coordination and provide effective tools for managing cormorant populations across the European Union?

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¹ Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2009/147/oj> (<http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2009/147/oj>)).