

**Question for written answer E-004276/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Regulatory gap in the management of wild horse populations in Greece and the EU

Populations of wild horses, resulting from animals released or abandoned a long time ago, can today be found in the mountainous and semi-mountainous areas of Greece. These populations entail a whole host of ill effects, such as risks to road safety, damage to crops and effects on biodiversity. Meanwhile, regional authorities and management bodies point out that where there is no recognised owner, there is no clear legal framework for the management of these animals. In addition, overlapping provisions of veterinary and environmental law create ambiguity in the application of EU rules.

Given that similar situations can also be found in other Member States, can the Commission say:

1. Will it consider providing interpretative guidance or amending the relevant regulations to clarify their application to wild horse populations?
2. Will it propose non-lethal and sustainable management measures, taking into account animal welfare and the protection of ecosystems?
3. Does it intend to map and activate available financial tools for monitoring, sterilising, feeding and protecting areas with such populations?

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