

Question for written answer E-004749/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
César Luena (S&D)

Subject: Public funding of studies supporting the trapping of finches in Andalusia

According to recent reports, the Regional Government of Andalusia has used public funds to fund a study aimed at assessing the ‘viability of *silvestrismo*,’ a practice consisting of capturing wild finches (such as goldfinches, linnets and greenfinches) to raise in captivity and be trained to sing in traditional bird singing contests. The study, which is the subject of controversy due to potential conflicts of interest and the institutional endorsement it has received, presents itself as an attempt to justify the resumption of captures, despite the fact that Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds explicitly prohibits the capture of these species, save for very limited exceptions that are notified to the Commission.

1. Has the Commission been informed of this project and of the possible use of public funds to promote practices that are contrary to Directive 2009/147/EC?
2. Does the Commission believe that institutional funding or backing of studies that aim to legitimise the capture of wild birds could constitute a violation of Member State obligations under Articles 5 and 9 of the aforementioned Directive?
3. Does the Commission intend to request information from the competent regional authorities and, where appropriate, take necessary action to ensure full compliance with EU biodiversity protection legislation?

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