

**Question for written answer E-004881/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Benoit Cassart (Renew)

Subject: Integrating private bird breeding into EU conservation policies

Many Europeans involved in breeding wild birds in protected areas highlight how this could help conserve biodiversity. With the help of privately bred birds and small-scale European breeding, it has been possible to save or reintroduce several species now classified as threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. These include the Hawaiian goose, Laysan albatross, Mauritian pink pigeon, Grayson's dove, and Bali myna.

At the same time, some Member States are bringing in 'positive lists' that heavily restrict the keeping of bird species, without always taking into account how these captive populations can contribute to conservation. At grassroots level there are concerns that these limits are depleting an important gene pool for future reintroduction programmes, despite the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 encouraging such programmes.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission plan to further integrate private breeding into EU *ex-situ* conservation policies?
2. Does it intend to put forward guidelines that will ensure the positive lists are based on scientific criteria that are proportionate and in line with conservation?

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