

**Question for written answer E-004212/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
David Cormand (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Protection of the urban pigeon under the Birds Directive

Despite the protection of the feral urban pigeon under the Birds Directive¹, as clarified in the Commission's guidance document on the general system of protection of bird species of 31 March 2026, many French cities continue to use lethal methods involving considerable suffering to manage their pigeon populations. Epidemiological studies show objectively that pigeons do not pose a threat to public health, as the risk of pigeons transmitting diseases to humans is negligible. Therefore, there is no reason to grant derogations under Article 9 of the directive to municipalities that seek to get rid of pigeons year after year by cruel means, such as capturing and killing them.

In this context:

1. How many derogations for the capture and killing of urban pigeons have been issued by the Member States, particularly France, and what was the reason for this?
2. What action does the Commission intend to take against Member States, particularly France, when cities that do not have a derogation use methods prohibited by Article 5 of the Birds Directive, such as the capture and killing of urban pigeons?

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¹ Directive 2009/147/EC of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2009/147/oj>).