

**Priority question for written answer P-003599/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Christine Singer (Renew)

Subject: Scientific basis for the listing of sika deer and the outlook for existing captive populations

Sika deer were added to the EU list of invasive alien species in 2025. This has significant implications for long-established captive populations kept on agricultural holdings.

In a Commission document of 2019 it was stated that the EU Scientific Forum had confirmed that sika deer did not meet the criteria for listing. Risks such as hybridisation with red deer and escape from captivity were already known at that time. In 2022, a revised risk assessment was submitted, on the basis of which the species was ultimately listed.

1. What specific new scientific findings, or what change in assessment, led to the previously known risks now being regarded as sufficient to meet the criteria for inclusion on the list?
2. On which documented cases of animals escaping from agricultural enclosures in the EU is the current risk assessment based, and were modern facilities meeting today's fencing, monitoring and security standards examined separately in this context?
3. In the Commission's view, how can a long-term future be secured for existing agricultural facilities housing sika deer, particularly where strict fencing, monitoring and security measures prevent the animals from escaping, and what role might an Article 9 authorisation play in this regard?

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