(English version)

Question for written answer E-000678/25
to the Commission
Dario Tamburrano (The Left)
(13 February 2025)

Subject: Donald Trump Jr hunt in Veneto and killing of ruddy shelduck

A number of newspapers ([1]) have published a video ([2]) of a hunt in Veneto ([3]) in which Donald Trump Jr, son of the US President, took part. He appears surrounded by dead birds in the video ([4]).

The image quality makes it difficult to identify all the species. A ruddy shelduck appears to be recognisable in the foreground.

Gesturing to it, Donald Trump Jr says, 'This is actually a rather uncommon duck for the area. Not even sure what it is in English. But, er … incredible shoot.' We therefore understand that it is rare and has been hunted (and not found dead, for example).

A Veneto Regional Councillor said ([5]), 'if [Trump Jr] acted in accordance with the rules, as seems to be the case, there is no reason for this hysteria'.

The councillor is a member of Fratelli d'Italia, a ruling party in both Italy and the Veneto Region.

The Minister for the Environment ([6]) said that perhaps a Trump Jr lookalike had shot the shelduck.

As it stands, the Italian authorities have taken no action.

In the light of the above:

1. Does EU legislation allow for the hunting of ruddy shelducks ([7])?

2. If it does not allow for it, what steps will the Commission take in this case, both generally and specifically if Italy itself takes no action?

Submitted: 13.2.2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(28 March 2025)

The Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) is not included in the list of huntable species under Annex II of the Birds Directive ([1]).

Member States are primarily responsible to ensure compliance with EU law, including verifying individual cases of potential breach of the relevant rules, and taking the necessary steps for enforcement.

In its role as guardian of the Treaties, the Commission will continue monitoring the situation and may decide to take appropriate action.

The Commission aims to swiftly follow up on systemic issues involving the application of EU law in EU countries. However, one-off instances are better dealt with at national level, as long as there are available remedies, including judicial ones. In these cases, it is up to the national courts to apply and enforce citizens' rights under EU law.

In line with its strategic approach on enforcement action ([2]) the Commission focuses on those cases that reveal a systemic breach of EU law in a Member State.

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1 [1]For instance: https://t.ly/hMHnA.

2 [2]The video appeared on — and was subsequently deleted from — Field Ethos: https://edition.cnn.com/2025/02/05/travel/video/donald-trump-junior-accused-of-shooting-rare-duck-italy-digvid — around 00:25 et seq.

3 [3]The hunt presumably took place in late December or early January: Christmas decorations appear in one indoors scene.

4 [4]01:38 et seq.

5 [5]https://t.ly/KOiLM

6 [6]https://t.ly/x9-Of

7 [7]The question does not concern the theoretical possibility of hunting (conceivably by way of derogation) ruddy shelducks, but their actual hunting (and in recent months), also bearing in mind that the 2024-25 hunting schedule of the Veneto Region does not provide for the hunting of ruddy shelducks by way of derogation itself — https://bur.regione.veneto.it/BurvServices/pubblica/DettaglioDgr.aspx?id=532485.

([1]) Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds, OJ L 020 26.1.2010, p. 7.

([2]) As set out in the communication of 19 January 2017: EU law: Better results through better application — C/2016/8600, OJ C 18, 19.1.2017, p. 10-20 and in the communication of 13 October 2022: COM(2022) 518 final — Enforcing EU law for a Europe that delivers.