

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003128/25**  
**to the Commission**  
**Isabel Serra Sánchez (The Left)**  
(29 July 2025)

*Subject:* LIFE programme

According to reports, the Commission will do away with the LIFE programme in its next budgets. The announcement has caused a great deal of concern in the scientific and conservationist communities. The LIFE programme is the only fund designed to halt biodiversity loss and has been a key tool in the conservation and restoration of certain species, such as the Iberian lynx or brown bear, in recent years.

The LIFE programme is closely aligned with the Nature Restoration Law, the aim of which is to restore 30% of damaged habitats by 2030. Discontinuing the programme therefore contradicts the spirit of the law. For these reasons, this announcement has been heavily criticised by environmental organisations.

I would therefore like to ask the Commission:

1. How does the Commission intend to halt biodiversity loss without the LIFE programme — the only fund dedicated to nature conservation?
2. What impact will discontinuing the programme have on enforcement of the Nature Restoration Law?

Submitted: 29.7.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission**  
(17 September 2025)

In its proposal to establish a European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) <sup>(1)</sup>, the Commission suggests repealing a number of programmes, including the EU programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE) <sup>(2)</sup>.

The specific activities funded under LIFE would remain under the remit of the new, encompassing ECF, as stated in Articles 33 and 37 of the proposed Regulation.

While LIFE activities have been firmly anchored in the ECF, support for projects contributing to EU's strategic priorities in the area of environment will be provided under the National and Regional Partnership Plans and specifically within the EU Facility <sup>(3)</sup>, including support to strategic nature projects. Cross-national activities will also be supported by these Plans, promoting best practices and nature conservation efforts throughout the EU.

The Nature Restoration Regulation <sup>(4)</sup> is legally binding and directly applicable in all Member States, who have an obligation, independent of EU funding provisions, to ensure that all provisions are met.

The Commission will continue to offer support to the implementation of the regulation, including through a wide range of funding options that will continue to be available through the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) <sup>(5)</sup> for supporting the protection of nature and the restoration of biodiversity.

In addition, the Commission has proposed in the proposed Performance Regulation for the EU Budget 2028-2034 to set up an overall spending target of at least 35% on climate action and environmental objective, applicable to the EU budget for the new MFF period.

Finally, the Commission has launched a roadmap towards nature credits <sup>(6)</sup>, as a complementary source of funding to attract private investors into nature restoration projects.

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<sup>(1)</sup> COM(2025) 555, Article 85.

<sup>(2)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/783 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013, OJ L 172, 17.5.2021, p. 53-78, [https://eura.europa.eu/programmes/life\\_en](https://eura.europa.eu/programmes/life_en).

<sup>(3)</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the committee of the Regions — A dynamic EU Budget for the priorities of the future — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0570>.

<sup>(4)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869, OJ L, 2024/1991, 29.7.2024.

<sup>(5)</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en).

<sup>(6)</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the committee of the Regions — Roadmap towards Nature Credits. [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=comnat:COM\\_2025\\_0374\\_FIN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=comnat:COM_2025_0374_FIN).