

EN

E-003751/2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(28.11.2025)

The Commission agrees with the Honourable Member on the threats posed by wildlife trafficking.

The study referred to by the Honourable Member assessed the need for, added value, and feasibility of criminalising all trade in illegal wildlife across the EU. It concluded that such criminalisation is legally feasible under Article 83(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, provided it complies with criminal law principles. However, significant data and traceability gaps on species not covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)¹ currently prevent a full assessment of its proportionality and necessity. The study was exploratory, and no decision has been taken at this stage on a legislative proposal.

Wildlife trafficking is addressed under the new Environmental Crime Directive², which Member States must transpose by May 2026. In parallel, fighting wildlife trafficking remains a political and enforcement priority for the Commission, which works closely with the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)³, the EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust)⁴, and international partners.

On traceability, the Commission recognises the importance of data on wildlife trade and will continue to explore possible options to improve the current system.

¹ <https://cites.org/eng>.

² Directive (EU) 2024/1203 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on the protection of the environment through criminal law and replacing Directives 2008/99/EC and 2009/123/EC.

³ <https://www.europol.europa.eu/>.

⁴ <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/>.