

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000431/26
to the Commission
Christine Singer (Renew)
(4 February 2026)**

Subject: Application of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1422 — enclosure-based keeping of sika deer (*Cervus nippon*)

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1422 adds sika deer (*Cervus nippon*) to the Union list of invasive alien species. For many years, sika deer have been kept legally in agricultural enclosures in several Member States, including Germany. This method of keeping is economically valuable and there is steady demand for sika deer meat.

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the actual risk of sika deer spreading and creating hybrid species if they are kept in secure enclosures and are prevented from coming into contact with red deer?
2. To what extent does the Commission see scope under Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 to ensure that existing, legal enclosure-based holdings are allowed to continue, in particular with regard to transitional and derogating provisions?
3. How does the Commission intend to ensure that the regulation is applied proportionately, without imposing blanket restrictions on economically valuable farming methods proven to be of little risk to the environment?

Submitted: 4.2.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(10 April 2026)**

The risk assessment on sika deer (*Cervus nippon*) considers the risk of spreading and creating hybrids as very likely with a high confidence level ⁽¹⁾.

The risk assessment underpinning the listing of species on the list of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) of Union concern ensures that the regulation is applied proportionately to the environmental risk, based on an informed decision.

The IAS Regulation ⁽²⁾ offers the possibility to continue the keeping of sika deers under strict conditions. Article 8 allows to keep sika deer for ex-situ conservation, research and medicinal use, on the basis of permits to be delivered by Member State authorities. Article 9 allows Member States to request an authorisation to deliver those permits for reasons of compelling public interest.

Any authorisation that may be given is for a fixed period, with conditions that might demand biosecurity investments from the farmers.

⁽¹⁾ <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/98665af0-7dfa-448c-8bf4-e1e086b50d2c/library/e2ef7135-372a-4dfd-a041-9d31bdc9b112/details>.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, OJ L 317, 4.11.2014, p. 35-55.