

EN

E-002870/2026

Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.9.2026)

The Commission is aware of the concerns regarding the conservation status of the Ibiza wall lizard¹, an endemic species of Ibiza, Formentera and the surrounding islets, which is strictly protected under the Habitats Directive² and also protected in 12 Natura 2000 sites³, as well as of the threats posed by the invasive snake species. The Directive establishes a framework for the conservation of species and habitats of EU importance and Member States have to take the necessary measures to achieve its objectives. Thus, the design and implementation of species conservation strategies, including measures to address invasive species, remain primarily the responsibility of the competent national and regional authorities.

To assist Member States with this task, the Commission has published frequently asked questions on how the Invasive Alien Species Regulation (IAS)⁴ interacts with the EU Nature Directives⁵.

The Spanish and Balearic authorities have adopted legislative, administrative and practical measures aimed at addressing the threats affecting the Ibiza wall lizard⁶. The Commission is supporting these efforts through a dedicated EU co-financed project 'LIFE Reptiles'⁷ under the EU programme for the environment and climate action.

The Commission also maintains technical dialogues with the Spanish authorities to provide support and discuss implementation challenges and solutions.

Without prejudice to the Commission's role as guardian of the Treaties, Member States bear primary responsibility for the correct implementation of the above provisions. The Commission's strategic enforcement policy is focused on systemic and structural issues⁸.

¹ *Podarcis pityusensis*.

² Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7–50.

³ <https://biodiversity.europa.eu/species/768>.

⁴ 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, pp. 35–55.

⁵ <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/3f466d71-92a7-49eb-9c63-6cb0fadf29dc/library/dc8502c3-6028-45f9-b2bf-6600cb267d61/details>.

⁶ <https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/conservacion-de-especies/especies-exoticas-invasoras/ce-eei-catalogo.html>;

<https://www.caib.es/webgoib/w/el-govern-destina-gaireb%C3%A9-dos-milions-d-euros-de-l-its-per-controlar-les-esp%C3%A8cies-invasores-a-les-piti%C3%BCses-i-per-construir-un-centre-de-recuperaci%C3%B3-de-fauna-a-eivissa>;

<https://vlex.es/vid/decreto-ley-1-2023-934314266>;

https://www.caib.es/pidip2front/ficha_convocatoria.xhtml?lang=es&urlSemantica=el-govern-supera-las-4400-capturas-de-serpientes-invasoras-en-las-pitiusas-y-refuerza-el-dispositivo-para-proteger-a-la-lagartija-pitiusa.

⁷ The LIFE programme provided EUR 4 921 282.45 to co-finance a six years long project with a total budget of EUR 8 202 137.43 dedicated to the species conservation. The project started on 1 July 2026 and targets also another four strictly protected endemic lizards in the Balearics and Grand Canaria threatened by invasive snakes.

⁸ 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

