

**Question for written answer E-003128/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Maria Angela Danzi (NI)**

Subject: Rings used on live decoys for hunting

In their mid-term budget for the 2023-2025 period, the regional authorities of Lombardy replaced Article 26 of Regional Law No 26/1993<sup>1</sup> on hunting, which led to less efficient checks aimed at ensuring that captured birds used as live bait were definitely born in captivity and not captured and then stamped to make it look as though they were born in captivity.

Specifically, in Lombardy it is forbidden to check that the rings on live decoys are irremovable as the new regional law states that monitoring and verification of the rings on decoy birds is limited to checking that the ring is present on the bird.

The Ministry of the Environment initially questioned the constitutionality of the regional law<sup>2</sup>, as it would lower the level of protection for wild fauna. The Lombard law stipulates that only plastic rings with a metal tab/fastener issued by the region can be used; in addition, the opinion of the National Institute for Wild Fauna is no longer required. However, despite the doubts initially raised, the Italian government decided not to challenge the law.

In view of this, can the Commission clarify whether it considers the abovementioned regional law to be in line with current EU law on the protection of wildlife and with the Birds Directive?

Submitted: 23.10.2023

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<sup>1</sup> See Article 11 of Regional Law No 2 of 7 August 2023:  
<https://normelombardia.consiglio.regione.lombardia.it/normelombardia/accessibile/main.aspx?view=showdoc&iddoc=lr002023080700002>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ilgiorno.it/milano/cronaca/il-ministero-avvisa-la-regione-caccia-norme-incostituzionali-adf3fb19>