

**Question for written answer E-000549/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Isabella Tovaglieri (ID)

Subject: Recognising the environmental value of sustainable hunting

Hunting, often confused with poaching and subject to attempts to have it restricted/banned, is a practice that can have a positive impact on the environment if it is carried out in keeping with the law and in a sustainable manner.

Hunters devote a lot of time and attention to the countryside and habitats, restoring and clearing paths, removing rubbish, and checking and cleaning ditches in often deserted, neglected areas.

Hunting also plays a key role in controlling animal populations: selective culling maintains ecological balances and prevents damage to habitats. It also helps protect habitats from invasive species by stopping them from spreading.

A study conducted by the association Nomisma estimated hunting's environmental value to be EUR 8.5 billion per year¹.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission not consider it appropriate to recognise the positive value of ethical and sustainable hunting, in view of Directive 92/43/EEC, which stipulates that the preservation, protection and improvement of the environment and the conservation of natural habitats are 'an essential objective of general interest'?
2. Does it not agree that policies aimed at limiting or banning hunters' activities can potentially be detrimental to environmental protection and habitat conservation?

Submitted:20.2.2024

¹ <https://www.nomisma.it/press-area/attivita-venatoria-italia-nomisma/>