

It should be noted that these programmes are managed at Member State level and, therefore, by the national and/or regional authorities, not the Commission.

The Natural Park of Sierra de Baza (Granada) has in any event been proposed by the Spanish authorities as a site of Community interest which could be integrated into the Natura 2000 network.

Where sites of Community interest are concerned, Member States are obliged to adopt the statutory, administrative or contractual measures required to preserve the habitats in Annex I and the species in Annex II of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora⁽¹⁾, and to achieve the general objectives of this Directive.

However, the management of potential Natura 2000 network sites is the responsibility of the Member States, the Commission's role consisting in ensuring compliance with Community law.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992.

(2002/C 147 E/131)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3186/01

by Hanja Maij-Weggen (PPE-DE) to the Council

(23 November 2001)

Subject: Bush meat

Can the Council confirm that on 6 November it received 340 000 signatures from European citizens protesting against increasing European sales of African bush meat, which represents exports of four million tonnes a year?

Does the Council know that this meat comes from wild animals in Africa, including some that are under threat of extinction?

Is the Council prepared to introduce an import ban on this meat or strict, controlled import quotas because otherwise certain groups of African wild animals will become extinct within ten years as a result of these exports?

Reply

(18 March 2002)

The Council notes with interest the Honourable Member's reference to a document containing 340 000 signatures from European citizens protesting against the increasing European sales of African bush meat, but has, to date, not received that document.

The Council also notes the information provided by the Honourable Member that this bush meat comes from wild animals in Africa, some of which are under threat of extinction.

As for the imposition of an import ban or controlled import quotas, it is up to the Commission to examine this question thoroughly and to report to Council and, if appropriate, to come forward with a concrete proposal.
