

**Question for written answer E-003249/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Banning of lead in wetlands

As part of its implementation of the REACH Regulation, the Commission has requested the ECHA to assess the possibility of a potential ban on the use in wetlands and terrestrial areas of lead in the form of shot for hunting and sport shooting and of fishing equipment.

The question of which definition of 'wetland' the ECHA adopts when deciding whether or not to stop hunting with lead shot is something that requires urgent attention.

Indeed, if one takes the definition of 'wetland' to be the one set out in the Ramsar Convention, which is too broad and generalised and even includes peatlands, one would risk adopting a measure that is illogical and disproportionate to the objective of that Convention of protecting aquatic birds.

Can the Commission therefore state:

1. whether it is aware that adopting the definition of 'wetland' given in the Ramsar Convention, which includes peatlands, will make it difficult to harmonise the rules among the different EU countries?
2. whether it is completely confident that the ECHA will address the proposed restriction on the use of lead shot in areas other than wetlands in a proportionate and common sense manner?