

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3039/02
by Caroline Lucas (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Iberian lynx

The Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardina*) is a priority species under Annex II of Council Directive 92/43/EEC¹ of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. There are fewer than 150 left in Southern Spain and Portugal. It could become extinct as early as 2005.

Which projects funded by the EU does the Commission consider to have an impact on the ability of the Iberian lynx to survive extinction?

Does the Commission consider the Odelouca Dam, Alqueva Dam and A2 motorway projects to be compatible with the provisions of Council Directive 92/43/EEC in respect of the Portuguese Government's obligations?

Is the Commission aware of any efforts by the Portuguese Government to declare the Iberian Lynx extinct?

What plans does the Commission have to press the Spanish and Portuguese Governments to promote: rabbit repopulation measures (a food source for lynx); the preservation of old cork trees where the lynx often nests; lynx habitat recovery schemes; and investment in sustainable traditional farming systems?

¹ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.