

**Question for written answer E-003865/2026**

**to the Commission**

Rule 144

**Sander Smit (ECR), Jessika van Leeuwen (ECR)**

Subject: Safeguarding fawn and wildlife rescue under new EU drone rules

The Commission's Action Plan on Drone and Counter-Drone Security announces new rules extending operator registration and direct remote identification requirements to all drones above 100 grams<sup>1</sup>. This could significantly expand the number of drones and operators subject to registration requirements, including thermal-imaging drones used by farmers and volunteers to locate and rescue fawns and other wildlife before mowing. Such operations are time-critical and often rely on existing equipment. At the same time, the Commission has announced “regulatory simplification and flexibility for certain operations”.

- 1 Has the Commission assessed the additional registration costs and administrative burden resulting from lowering the threshold to drones above 100 grams, in particular for farmers, volunteers and organisations carrying out fawn and wildlife rescue operations?
- 2 Will existing rescue drones above 100 grams without direct remote identification be allowed to continue operating without mandatory replacement or disproportionate retrofitting?
- 3 Will the Commission explicitly provide simplified registration rules, transitional arrangements or exemptions for time-critical fawn and wildlife rescue operations, including where Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) flights are necessary?

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<sup>1</sup> European Commission, Action Plan on Drone and Counter-Drone Security, COM(2026) 81 final, Section 2.2.1: the Commission announces a Drone Security Package extending registration and identification requirements to all drones above 100 g; the Key Actions specify mandatory operator registration and direct remote identification for smaller drones above 100 g.