

**Question for written answer E-009488/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Keith Taylor (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Findings of the EU Zoo Inquiry

This week, students from a school in my constituency travelled to Brussels with a message of concern about the findings of the EU Zoo Inquiry, conducted by the Born Free foundation:
<http://www.bornfree.org.uk/campaigns/zoo-check/zoos/eu-zoo-inquiry/>

The inquiry has identified inconsistencies in the application of the EU Zoo Directive and substandard conditions in many zoos, with the result that animals are suffering in conditions ranging from poor to appalling.

The students of Downlands Community School and I believe that the EU must do more to guarantee that all animals in European zoos, of which the EU Zoo Inquiry estimates there to be 3 500, are provided with conditions that meet their needs.

Will the Commission state what action is being taking to encourage and safeguard appropriate welfare standards for animals in zoos?

One of the findings of the EU Zoo Inquiry is that there is a lack of knowledge at Member State competent authority level regarding the welfare needs of wild animals.

Will the Commission also state what action is being taken to ensure that the Member States have access to credible knowledge and training?