

**Question for written answer E-012411/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Catherine Bearder (ALDE)

Subject: Import of caiman crocodiles in Cyprus

In 2010 twenty caiman crocodiles were imported from the Netherlands into Cyprus. Unfortunately due to issues that have yet to be clarified the crocodiles were held by veterinary staff at the arrival airport before being killed.

An independent report completed by Clifford Warwick, a medical scientist, on behalf of the Animal Protection Agency has found there to be several concerns surrounding how these creatures were treated and the lack of cooperation on this matter by the Cypriot authorities. This report can be found at: <http://www.apa.org.uk/pdfs/Cyprus-Caiman-Commentary-and-Opinion.pdf> .

In light of this, can the Commission clarify whether the retention and subsequent execution of these creatures violated the CITES and EU Wildlife Trade Regulations? Additionally can the Commission give details of actions it will take or is currently taking in relation to this issue?