

Question for written answer E-000505/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Glenis Willmott (S&D)

Subject: Use of animals in circuses

Directive 1999/22/EC relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos states that all EU zoos must participate in research or training from which conservation benefits accrue to the species, promote public education and awareness in relation to the conservation of biodiversity, and keep animals in conditions that satisfy their biological and conservation requirements.

In contrast to this, there is no EU law on the use of animals for circus performances, although in these cases the animals are rarely kept in conditions that satisfy their biological needs and their use is entirely for entertainment, rather than public education.

1. Does the Commission agree that this situation is inconsistent?
2. Given that some Member States already prohibit the use of wild animals in circuses, would the Commission consider proposing an EU-wide ban on the use in circuses of species listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species?