

Question for written answer E-000859/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Ulla Tørnæs (ALDE)

Subject: EU ban on importing sealskins

A ban on importing sealskins into the EU was introduced in 2010, although an exemption was granted to the Inuit of Greenland. The ban has nevertheless had serious consequences for hunters in Greenland who live in very remote areas, where hunting is one of the only means of making a living. Since the EU's import ban was introduced, income from seals in Greenland has fallen by 80-90 %, which is equivalent to a total export loss of DKK 350 million.

In December 2013, WWF Danmark issued a report which concluded that seal hunting in Greenland is 100 % sustainable.

Would the Commission state what steps it will take to remedy the enormous economic and social consequences which the EU's import ban has had on Greenland and its hunters?

Would the Commission also state what steps it will take to increase awareness in EU countries of the Inuit exemption and of the fact that the WWF has declared seal hunting in Greenland to be 100 % sustainable?