

**Question for written answer E-001353/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)**

Subject: Illegal trade in protected animals in Europe

At the end of last year the European Parliament debated about the significant increase in the worldwide illegal trade in protected animals, fuelled by offenders' huge earnings and high demand in some countries. Many discussions emphasised the deliberate killing of African elephants and rhinos in order to sell their parts on the black market. Unfortunately, in some countries elephant tusks or a rhino nose are becoming a symbol of personal wealth and prestige.

However, the issue of illegal killing and illegal trade in animals is also a European problem.

In particular, it often happens that on Croatian border crossings with Bosnia and Herzegovina or the Slovenian-Croatian border people are caught transporting mainly smaller-sized killed birds to the Italian black meat market.

1. Is the Commission aware of this illegal international trade?
2. Does the Commission intend to act in order to prevent further trade on the black market and does it intend to impose, in cooperation with Member States, severe sanctions against the perpetrators of such abuse?