

**Question for written answer E-007919/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Olaf Stuger (NI)

Subject: Massive slaughter of elephants in Tanzania

In recent years, poachers have hunted elephants on a massive scale in Tanzania¹. At least 65 000 of the animals have been killed since 2009 – 60% of the total population living in the East African country.

The German periodical Der Spiegel² has published figures from the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute: in 2013 alone, 11 500 of the 20 000 animals were killed.

According to the wildlife conservation organisation Pro Wildlife, the Tanzanian Government is concealing the statistics, so that it seems as if the country is doing a lot for elephants, with the aim of obtaining as much development aid as possible. Tanzania receives millions of euros in development aid from the EU, among other sources, in exchange for protecting elephants.

1. Is the Commission aware of the article from Der Spiegel (II) in which it alleges that the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute has for years been required by the Tanzanian authorities to conceal statistics on the elephant population because otherwise they would no longer have received millions of euros in development aid from the EU?
2. If so, why has the Commission not taken action and adopted the necessary measures, such as imposing penalties?
3. If not, will the Commission immediately halt all forms of EU aid to Tanzania?

¹ http://www.telegraaf.nl/buitenland/24023600/___Olifanten_massaal_afgeslacht___html

² <http://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/natur/tansania-65-000-elefanten-in-nur-fuenf-jahren-abgeschlachtet-a-1032895.html>