

**Question for written answer E-005656/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Keith Taylor (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Assessment of the Zoos Directive

It is my understanding that Council Directive 1999/22/EC of 29 March 1999 on the keeping of wild animals in zoos (the Zoos Directive) and its application will be assessed this year as part of the Commission's REFIT programme of the EU's biodiversity policy.

In 2011, the EU Zoo Inquiry¹, conducted by the Born Free Foundation, found that implementation and enforcement of the Zoos Directive was poor, that zoos were routinely failing to meet the species-specific requirements of the animals and that Member State competent authorities lacked the knowledge and training required to fulfil their responsibilities.

Will the Commission, as part of the REFIT programme, consult the Member State competent authorities and ensure that they are competent in the enforcement of the legal requirements and the inspection of zoos?

Recognising that there is a procedure in place to address non-compliance, what evidence can the Commission provide to prove that these mechanisms are utilised and that those Member States that fail to meet their responsibilities are held to account?

¹ www.euzoo inquiry.eu.