

**Question for written answer E-003430/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Invasive aquatic species

According to Article 8(h) of the 1992 UN Convention on Biological Diversity, invasive species are one of the main causes of harm to biodiversity. The EU requires invasive species to be controlled, in particular under Directives 92/43/EEC and 1143/2014/EU.

Between 1970 and 2007, the number of invasive alien species in Europe rose by 76%, because of increased international trade.

Aquaculture is one of the main ways in which alien aquatic species are introduced. Regulation 708/2007/EC regulates the movements of alien aquatic species in aquaculture.

However, the trade in alien fish species for aquariums is a growing source of contamination. This trade is not regulated and there is no traceability system in place.

The market for saltwater fish was worth EUR 135 million between 2000 and 2011, with annual growth rates of 3.1% since 2004. It comprises around a hundred species imported primarily from Indonesia (53% of imported saltwater fish if we include imports from the US), and sometimes these are difficult even for experts to identify ('Marine ornamental fish imports in the European Union: an economic perspective', *Fish and Fisheries*, 2016).

Does the Commission plan to regulate the above-mentioned market, in particular so as to improve the traceability of imported species in the EU?