

**Question for written answer E-007157/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Emergency measures to ban the ivory trade

While the Commission is conducting a consultation on the ivory trade in the EU, in accordance with its communication on the EU Wildlife Trade Action Plan and the corresponding Council conclusions, the fact is that this trade, in supposedly antique objects¹, merely encourages ivory trafficking and the slaughter² of animals which are at risk of extinction.

Given that many Member States³ allow domestic and international trading in ivory, including its export to the main markets for illegal ivory, such as China and Hong Kong, thus compromising international endeavours to stop ivory trafficking; and given that elephant population numbers are declining alarmingly⁴:

Does the Commission intend to take emergency measures, in anticipation of the consultation conclusions, to ban the ivory trade in all its forms, inside the EU as well as to and from it?

¹ http://www.trafficj.org/publication/16_A_Rapid_Survey_of_UK_Ivory_Markets.pdf

² <http://www.ifaw.org/united-states/resource-centre/eu-ivory-trade-kills-elephants>

³ http://www.ifaw.org/sites/default/files/ifaw_ivory_seizures_europe_proof_4.pdf

⁴ <https://eia-international.org/illegal-trade-seizures-elephant-ivory-europe>