

**Question for written answer E-005609/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Resumption of Chinese trade in tiger and rhinoceros products

China recently announced a partial lifting of the ban it imposed in 1993 on trade in tigers and rhinoceroses and products derived from them. The resumption of lawful trading aggravates the threat to these already endangered species. According to World Wildlife Fund (WWF) figures for the world as a whole, there are just 30 000 rhinoceroses and 3 900 tigers still living in the wild.

Authorising the sale of tiger and rhinoceros products could stimulate demand for them and thereby facilitate the 'laundering' of products derived from animals killed by poachers. The Chinese decision is likely to undermine worldwide efforts to support the survival of the two species.

Given the European Union's leading role in the preservation of biodiversity, does the Commission intend to exert EU influence to encourage a U-turn on the part of the Chinese authorities?

Could the Commission also secure confirmation that the Chinese do not intend to lift their ban on ivory trading?

More broadly, as the decline in biodiversity accelerates, and given that China is one of the major target markets for products sourced from poaching, what steps does the Commission intend to take to strengthen its dialogue with China and to join forces with it to combat trafficking in threatened species?