

**Question for oral answer O-000155/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 128

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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

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Subject: Japanese whaling in the Antarctic

In its judgment of 31 March 2014, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ordered a halt to Japan's annual slaughter of whales in the Southern Ocean, by a 12-4 majority among a panel of judges, after concluding that the hunts are not, as Japan claims, conducted for scientific research.

A few days ago, however, the Japanese Fisheries Agency notified the International Whaling Commission that it will resume whaling during the 2015-16 season under a revised plan, thereby unilaterally deciding to ignore scientific advice, and the aforementioned ICJ ruling, in order to hunt and kill 333 minke whales.

In view of this completely unacceptable decision that runs counter to the spirit of Article 13 TFEU and the vast majority of public opinion in the EU Member States, we would like to ask the Commission the following questions:

Will the Commission strongly condemn Japan's decision to hunt and kill 333 minke whales during the 2015-2016 season? What action, including legal action, will the Commission take to ensure that Japan complies with the ICJ ruling? Will the Commission encourage Member States to take legal action vis-à-vis Japan?

The EU and Japan are currently discussing a free trade agreement in Tokyo; there have been thirteen negotiating rounds so far and the negotiations are expected to be concluded soon. Does the Commission intend to halt negotiations on the EU-Japan free trade agreement, in the light of Japan's decision to continue whaling?

Tabled: 7.12.2015

Forwarded: 9.12.2015

Deadline for reply: 16.12.2015