

**Question for written answer P-012648/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: The killing of pilot whales in the Faroe Islands

Every year in the Faroe Islands, thousands of pilot whales (*Globicephala melas*) are killed during the 'grindadrap' event.

In Europe, including Denmark, killing cetaceans is prohibited, in recognition of the stipulations set forth in the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, signed in Bern on 19 September 1979, which includes pilot whales in the list of strictly protected fauna species (Annex II).

On 23 July and 12 August 2015, during two separate 'grindadrap' events, a number of European and non-European environmentalists (including Marianna Baldo from Italy, Christophe Bondue from Belgium and Xavier Figarella from France) were arrested and jailed, having been charged with interfering in the killing of whales. The crime exists in Faroese legislation.

The measures taken by Denmark to arrest these European citizens by deploying police and naval forces (Danish Navy vessel HDMS Triton) to enforce the Faroes law is unlawful, as it is in violation of the principles of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Chapter III. 6 (a)) and of European Directive 92/43 of 21 May 1992.

Is the Commission aware of this event and the circumstances surrounding it?

What kind of action does it intend to take in response to these developments?