

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0909/02
by Brigitte Langenhagen (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Whale catches in the Faroe Islands

As reported by nature protection organisations, large numbers of pilot whales are killed every year between June and August in the coastal waters off the Faroe Islands. The greater part of the animals killed are thrown back into the sea.

In accordance with the International Whaling Commission (IWC) Moratorium, whale hunting - with some narrowly restricted exceptions - is banned. The European Union is not a member of the IWC, but holds observer status. Under Directive 92/43/EWG of 21 May 1992¹, all EU Member States are required to introduce a stringent protection scheme for all species of whales.

The Faroe Islands are part of the Kingdom of Denmark, but enjoy self-government and are not a Member of the EU.

Is the European Commission aware that large numbers of pilot whales are killed in the Faroe Islands every year?

Where does the Commission's stand on this matter?

Where does the Danish government stand on this matter?

What measures is the Commission minded to adopt to bring the annual killing of pilot whales on the Faroe Islands to an end?

To what extent can this matter be considered as integral to the EU Fisheries Agreement with the Faroe Islands?

¹ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.