

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3474/08
by Michl Ebner (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Commission opinion poll on seal hunting

Over the period between late December 2007 and mid-February 2008 the Commission conducted an on-line opinion poll with a view to determining public views on seal hunting and the trade in seal products. Why did the Commission choose precisely this period for the opinion poll?

For various reasons, including the language and medium chosen, the aim of making the opinion poll representative and neutral would seem not to have been achieved.

Why was the Internet chosen as the medium for this important opinion poll? Does the Commission know how many EU citizens actually have an Internet connection? Is the Commission happy to accept that all those persons who have no Internet connection are automatically prevented from taking part?

Why was the opinion poll conducted only in English, thereby excluding those EU citizens who do not speak English? Is the Commission happy to accept this state of affairs?

On what basis can the Commission opinion poll be described as representative?