

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3476/08
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.

According to unofficial reports, more than 73 000 answers were received from 160 countries. Is it true that almost half the answers came from the USA? Did the Commission also receive answers from the 132 other States which do not belong to the EU? If so, how many?

How does the Commission plan to justify a possible future Community policy in this area if that policy is based at least in part on an opinion poll which is much more representative of views in the USA than of those in the EU?