

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2140/09
by Urszula Gacek (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Seal cull in Canada

In the last few years more than a million seals have been killed in Canada with the approval of the Canadian government. This mass slaughter continues in spite of public opposition and worldwide protests.

The animals killed are mostly young, sometimes only a few weeks old. As they are still unable to swim well, are reluctant to leave the ice and have no fear of people, they are easy targets. Often they are clubbed to death. Many of the animals are still alive when their fur is removed.

Nothing can justify this barbarity: no dubious economic interest, no alleged need to 'regulate' nature in this bloody way, nor any appeal to tradition.

Poland, one of the world's biggest importers of seal furs, should ban their import following the example of other European countries that have done so or intend to, such as Belgium, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands.

What measures does the Commission intend to take to put an end to this barbaric practice?