

**Question for written answer E-005379/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Dan Jørgensen (S&D)

Subject: Elephants killed by poachers in the Central African Republic

Dzanga-Ndoki National Park in the Central African Republic is a unique World Heritage site and home to more than 1 000 forest elephants. Despite the fact that they are considered national treasures, in a recent episode a large group of these elephants was killed by poachers in the park, underlining the currently precarious security situation in the country. The European Union plays a vital role in the region, and has since 2008 provided roughly EUR 157 million (USD 205 million) in aid alone to the Central African Republic. That aid has been suspended in response to the lack of the rule of law in the country.

1. Is the Commission aware of the recent slaughter of elephants in the Central African Republic, and is the protection of national treasures such as elephants being taken into consideration in the assessment of future aid to the country?
2. How can the EU and the international community act to assist the Central African Republic to restore peace and order in the country in order to safeguard its population and its natural heritage?