

**Question for written answer E-009528/2013  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 117  
**Jill Evans (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Whaling in the Faroe Islands

I have received several letters from my constituents who are concerned about the practice of whaling in the Faroe Islands.

Every summer hundreds of pilot whales are killed in the Faroe Islands. Last year the number of whales killed reached 590. The killings aren't carried out by people with licences; they are carried out by local residents and anyone can take part. Meat and blubber from the animals is sold in the Faroe Islands for human consumption, despite evidence of high levels of mercury and toxins being found in pilot whale meat. This led to the Faroe Islands' Chief Medical Officer and Chief Scientist jointly writing a letter to the Danish Government on 8 August 2008 stating that pilot whales should no longer be used for human consumption. Thus the consumption of pilot whale meat is also dangerous to human health.

Although this whaling practice has been part of the culture of the Faroe Islands for over 1000 years, it is cruel and must be stopped.

1. Does the Vice-President / High Representative condemn the practice of whaling in the Faroe Islands?
2. Does the Vice-President / High Representative agree that action must be taken to stop this practice from continuing?
3. What steps will the Vice-President / High Representative take to ensure that the Faroese authorities stop their citizens from continuing the practice of killing hundreds of pilot whales every year?