

**Question for written answer E-003864/2014
to the Commission
Rule 117
Claudio Morganti (EFD)**

Subject: Animals held in captivity

Copenhagen Zoo has attracted fierce public criticism over the past few weeks for destroying several of its animals. The most shocking case concerned the brutal killing and public dissection of a giraffe, while four lions have also been destroyed in the last few days, probably because of a lack of space and an inability to house them elsewhere.

According to a report produced by the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), between three and five thousand animals are killed every year in European zoos, with the reasons for these culls not always being clear.

Can the Commission state whether there are any European Union regulations in place that protect animals in captivity held in various establishments open to the public?

Are there any reasons, other than veterinary or health grounds, permitting the culling of these animals?

Lastly, can it confirm the data concerning how many animals held in captivity are culled in European zoos?