

**Question for written answer E-004007/2014  
to the Commission  
Rule 117  
Guido Milana (S&D)**

**Subject:** Water shows involving dolphins and other cetaceans, and the Zoo Directive (1999/22/EC)

The establishments in the European Union that hold cetaceans in captivity are identified as zoos in accordance with Directive 1999/22/EC relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos. Article 1 sets out the objectives of the Directive, namely to protect wild fauna and to conserve biodiversity. As things currently stand in the European Union, every Member State that allows dolphinariums or other establishments holding dolphins and other cetaceans in captivity regulates them as 'zoos', with the exception of Bulgaria, which is the only Member State that has made dolphinariums exempt from the requirements of Directive 1999/22/EC, and has instead included them in the regulation applicable to circuses. It is public knowledge that all dolphinariums in the European Union use dolphins and other cetaceans in many water shows and other forms of entertainment, and that these performances are held several times during the day whilst the dolphinariums are open to the public. Using dolphins and other cetaceans in this way does absolutely nothing to protect wild fauna and conserve biodiversity, and also does not help to educate the public and raise general awareness about the need to protect these species and fulfil their ethological requirements.

Given that Directive 1999/22/EC governs the keeping of wild animals in zoos, and that dolphinariums in the European Union, even though they are regulated as zoos, use dolphins and other cetaceans for commercial purposes (water shows and other forms of entertainment), what actions does the Commission intend to take against any Member State that fails to take steps to rectify this situation?