

Question for written answer E-004586/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
Marina Yannakoudakis (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - Exporting of wild-caught primates and apes from Mauritius

Will the European External Action Service (EEAS) comment on allegations that wild-caught primates and apes are being cruelly exported from Mauritius for laboratory research in the EU? Can the Commission determine the validity of the following horrific allegations:

- that wild-caught primates and apes are snatched, handled and processed in a dangerous manner, and then cruelly put in cramped breeding, weaning, export and transport cages;
- that wild-caught primates and apes are often used for breeding in captivity, so that breeders can take advantage of loopholes to restock their factory farms, while the laboratories themselves can claim that they do not use wild-caught animals;
- that primates and apes are transported around the world for experimentation and research purposes in small, dark wooden crates that are not big enough for the primate to stand up in, and that in most instances the primates are cowering and extremely frightened upon arrival at their destination after a long international flight;
- that when they finally reach their destination they face the greater ordeal of being subjected to a barrage of painful laboratory experiments, which see these intelligent, sentient and gentle animals fall victim to procedures such as neurology tests (in which monkeys may have bolts and electrodes permanently implanted into their heads) and deprivation of food and water.

Would the EEAS respond by outlining what action it has taken, or will take, to end this cruel practice, and whether it has been in contact with the authorities in Mauritius to set best practice benchmarks and moral guidelines for overseas primate suppliers?