

Question for written answer E-007236/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Peter Lundgren (EFDD)

Subject: Trade in seal products

On 6 February 2015 the Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1007/2009 on trade in seal products so as to delete the derogation allowing trade in seal products resulting from marine resources management (MRM) hunts. During World Trade Organisation proceedings, the Commission stated that the MRM exception 'is not aimed at promoting a better management of marine resources as [the EU] has other instruments it uses for that purpose'¹. This statement is clearly in breach of the principle of sincere cooperation between the EU institutions and the Member States, but also of the principle of conferral, since environmental policies are shared competences.

Can the Commission explain why it stated that the derogation is not aimed at promoting better management of marine resources?

Can it list the other instruments used for MRM?

Is it taking concrete measures in response to Parliament's call² for measures to reduce the negative effects of seals on fish stocks?

¹ World Trade Organisation panel report, 'European Communities – Measures Prohibiting the Importation and Marketing of Seal Products', WT/DS400/R, WT/DS401/R, 25 November 2013, paragraph 7.342, p. 106.

² European Parliament resolution of 12 September 2012 on reporting obligations under Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the Common Fisheries Policy, paragraph 13, Texts adopted, P7_TA(2012)0335.