

**Question for written answer E-005822/2016**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Jean-Marie Le Pen (NI)**

Subject:     Respect for the living conditions of cetaceans, including orcas, in marine parks

According to many experts, the conditions in which cetaceans are kept in captivity prevent them from living a decent life.

Keeping cetaceans in captivity is often incompatible with meeting their basic needs as animals, such as hunting and covering long distances, which results in a shortened life expectancy.

Living conditions in captivity are even more difficult for large mammals like orcas, which can be up to 9 metres long and weigh up to 8.5 tonnes. In addition, orcas normally live in a calm environment in family groups, but in captivity they are often isolated and kept in a restricted space. At the end of 2015 there were 34 dolphinariums in the EU (including three in France), keeping 316 cetaceans, including 12 orcas. However, according to a survey carried out in 2011, none of them meet the biological requirements of cetaceans in captivity.

What measures can the Commission take to ensure good conditions for cetaceans held in captivity in accordance with Council Directive 1999/22/EC?

Does the Commission intend to ban new dolphinariums and the keeping of cetaceans (particularly orcas) in captivity?