

Question for written answer E-001472/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Arne Gericke (ECR)

Subject: Preservation of raccoons in German zoos

The Questions and Answers published by the Commission on 13 July 2016 concerning the list of invasive alien species in Europe states that 'it is important to note that Member States do not have an obligation to eradicate invasive alien species of Union concern that are already widely spread on their territory'. Current reports that German zoos are being required to let their populations of raccoons and other officially invasive species die out are giving rise to concern, disquiet and negative headlines in EU newspapers.

1. Is it the case that the basic EU Regulation also covers zoos? Is it the case that breeding invasive species is banned? If so, what is the justification for banning the breeding of these species within an enclosed zoo system?
2. Do Member States have the option to exclude species which have already been present on their territory for a long time and in large numbers?
3. If the ban on breeding, as referred to above, applies to raccoons in zoos, why does it not also apply to elephants, giraffes or cockatoos which are far more 'alien' than the raccoon?