

**Question for written answer E-000607/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: EU-wide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses for reasons of public safety and security, human and animal health

The use of animals in circuses has implications for public safety and security, human and animal health.

The inadequacy of the structures in which the animals are kept, the proximity of the circuses to urban areas and deficiencies in security measures often lead to accidents¹.

Moreover, due to the itinerant nature of circuses, animals have to endure long journeys and continuous relocations, spending a long time in lorries and tiny cages as a result, with the consequence that the risk of spreading diseases and of accidents during their transport increases.

These concerns are exacerbated by lack of harmonisation. Twenty-two Member States have already put restrictions, a partial or a full ban in place, as have several municipalities. Nevertheless, they have to accept circuses with animals passing through their territory.

Animal welfare concerns should also be mentioned in this context, together with the lack of educational value of performances that involve animals and the lack of support from EU citizens for the use of wild animals in circuses².

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to prepare a proposal for an EU-wide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses?
2. Can the Commission clarify whether circuses using wild animals receive any support through EU-funded programmes?

¹ Source: http://www.eurogroupforanimals.org/wp-content/uploads/E4A-Circus_Report-Digital-OK-v2.pdf?utm_source=PDF&utm_campaign=CircusReport

² <https://www.change.org/p/european-union-ban-wild-animals-in-circuses>