

**Question for written answer E-002017/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Annika Bruna (ID)

Subject: Fighting the illegal trade in wild animals

The illegal trade in wild animals, which are usually sold as companion animals, is driving the erosion of biodiversity throughout the world by increasing the threat of extinction faced by thousands of species.

Sadly, the trade is being perpetuated by European consumers, particularly through online purchases, with the following being disregarded:

the illegal nature of the trade;

its impact on biodiversity;

the way in which the animals are captured and transported, which often results in their death;

the danger of zoonosis, i.e. the transmission of diseases from wild animals to humans, the most recent example of which is COVID-19.

I would like to ask the Commission the following:

1. Does it encourage companies selling online to ban the sale of wild animals in their terms of use?
2. Does it encourage the development of programmes to detect and spotlight fraudulent advertisements, i.e. advertisements which are prohibited by national legislation and by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)?
3. Finally, does it support campaigns aimed at informing consumers about the impact of this trade on biodiversity and the risks they take by purchasing wild animals?