

**Question for written answer E-002983/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Goldfish bowls: an overlooked source of suffering for many fish

For many years people generally thought that the *Carassius auratus*, or goldfish as it is commonly known, had a three-second memory and that it was safe to keep it in a bowl. However, new research now contradicts this theory and claims that not only do the confines of the bowl cause dwarfism, as the fish lacks space to grow properly, but that its internal organs are also still developing. The research therefore suggests that keeping goldfish in a bowl is a form of abuse.

Many scientists have argued that goldfish have a memory of between three and six months and are hence able to recognise each other, work with each other, find food and learn to avoid certain pitfalls.

In Europe, both Italy and Finland have banned the sale of bowls. In France, Law No 76-629 of 10 July 1976 states that 'any animal being a sentient being must be placed by its owner in living conditions compatible with the biological requirements of its species'.

In view of this:

Given that many European countries have already decided to ban goldfish bowls, does the Commission intend to harmonise existing legalisation and thus put an end to this form of animal abuse?