Question for written answer E-004413/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Mass slaughter of dolphins and whales in the Faroe Islands and the role of Danish
authorities

Every year the mass slaughter of dolphins and whales known as grindadráp occurs in the Faroe
Islands. On 12 September 2021, this resulted in the killing of over 1 400 white-sided dolphins. This
represents one of the largest single incidents of mass killing of white-sided dolphins in the recorded
history of this tradition on the islands and a particularly excessive act of cruelty to animals.

The Faroes are not subject to EU legislation or the Bern Convention, although they enjoy a number
of bilateral agreements on fisheries, trade and scientific and technological cooperation. The annual
slaughter is also facilitated and supported by Danish officials, and is subject to the relevant EU
legislation including the Habitats Directive, which prohibits Member States from all forms of deliberate
disturbance, capture, or killing of cetaceans.

1. Does the Commission consider Denmark’s facilitation of the grindadráp a breach of the relevant
environmental legislation protecting cetaceans?

2. Will the Commission take appropriate action to encourage an end to this mass slaughter by using
the economic tools available to it?

3. Will the Commission work with Member States and international organisations such as the
International Whaling Commission to protect white-sided dolphins and pilot whales?