

**Question for written answer E-005343/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Raphaël Glucksmann (S&D)**

Subject: Massacre of pilot whales in the Faroe Islands

In September, following the 'grindadráp' tradition, the inhabitants of the Faroe Islands hunted and killed 1 428 pilot whales in an appalling massacre. Some dolphins were crushed by the boats' propellers and others were cut to pieces while still alive.

This practice contributes to the destruction of biodiversity. Whole groups of cetaceans are massacred, including juveniles, pregnant females and females of reproductive age.

A 2015 law prohibits any vessel not engaged in hunting from sailing among the hunters' boats, and the Danish Government sends military personnel to the Faroe Islands, preventing any action by marine protection groups.

With environmental and animal welfare considerations more important than ever before in the EU, the massacre set off a wave of emotion throughout Europe and beyond.

Will the Commission please answer the following questions:

1. Has it commissioned a reliable study to assess the pilot whale population at European level and the impact of this practice?
2. Denmark is a signatory to the Berne Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. Does the Commission deplore this hunting practice? What steps has it taken to encourage Denmark to comply with its commitments?