

**Question for written answer E-005348/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Annika Bruna (ID), Dominique Bilde (ID)**

**Subject:** Fight against the poisoning of Faroese children

The slaughter of 1 428 dolphins on 12 September in the Faroe Islands, during a traditional slaughter called the 'grindadráp', had a considerable impact on environmental and animal advocates. In addition, the consumption of meat from pilot whales and white-sided dolphins also poses a health hazard to the inhabitants of the Faroe Islands.

A Faroese doctor, who has studied the population of the archipelago since 1984, warns about the high concentration in dolphin flesh of mercury and persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and particularly of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyl) discharged into the sea by heavy industries around the world, which accumulate in marine animal tissue.

Faroese children are at risk. When absorbed by a mother, the toxic substances in turn affect the foetus. This results in slow reaction times in children as well as language, memory and immune system disorders. The children may eventually develop Alzheimer's or Parkinson's diseases over time.

What action has the Commission taken to ensure that Denmark protects the inhabitants of this archipelago from mercury and PCB poisoning caused by the consumption of dolphin meat?