

**Question for written answer E-000104/2022/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Octopus aquaculture and animal welfare

A group of Galician scientists have completed a process that paves the way for the farming of octopus on fish farms. This is great news in terms of the nutritional, gastronomic and commercial value of this type of cephalopod. In view of the cognitive abilities of this species, the animal welfare organisation Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) has, however, criticised this, claiming that the octopuses may suffer as a result of potentially cruel farming techniques. This stance has apparently been adopted by Commissioner Kyriakides, who in response to written question E-005618/2021 on the breeding of marine invertebrate animals maintained that the breeding of carnivorous animals such as octopus could place additional pressure on wild fish populations. She has announced a revision of current animal welfare legislation, without ruling out a ban on the farming of these species on these grounds.

In light of the above:

1. On which scientific research are the statements in the Commission's response based?
2. Does the Commission really think that octopus aquaculture may place additional pressure on wild fish populations?
3. Is it true that there are plans to ban the farming of cephalopods for animal welfare reasons?