Question for written answer E-001141/2022 to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: Banning the supply of wild-caught primates to laboratories

In 2021, Indonesia decided that the capture and export of crab-eating macaques could resume. The macaques are seen as an invasive and harmful species.

Since then, hundreds of them have been captured in the wild, in an appalling manner. They are caught in nets, grabbed by their necks, and their hind limbs are tied behind their backs. They are then crammed into bags or wooden crates. Babies are separated from their mothers and males are sometimes beaten to death.

They are then sold to laboratories – which are mainly Chinese and American, but also European – where they are subjected to painful toxicity tests designed to gauge the side-effects of chemicals and medicines.

Under Article 10 of Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, by 10 November 2022 at the latest, the Commission is to publish a study on the feasibility of laboratories being supplied exclusively with non-human primates bred on farms.

- 1. What is the state of play with regard to that study?
- 2. Are the main third countries using these primates also considering setting up breeding facilities to reduce the numbers captured in the wild until alternative methods are available?