

**Question for written answer E-000118/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Putting an end to performing bear shows in France and in Europe

Europeans, and French people in particular, are concerned about animal welfare. According to a study, 80% of French people say they are sympathetic to this cause. This reflects an awareness of the unsuitable conditions in which wild animals sometimes live, including those involved in live performances.

In France, despite the ruling of 18 March 2011, a derogation allows trainers to travel with their bears on trips lasting no more than four days from the date on which the animals leave their permanent facilities until their return.

The standard of the facilities during these journeys is completely unsuited to the needs of the animal: 24 square metres for two bears measuring more than two metres and 12 square metres for two bears measuring less than two metres.

The ban on performing bear shows would have a negligible socio-economic impact, since this activity affects only a few trainers and less than a dozen animals in France.

Does the Commission intend to adopt an action plan, in collaboration with the Member States, to eventually ban this outdated cruel practice in the EU?

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