

**Question for written answer E-000612/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Monitoring wild animals in travelling circuses in Europe

The number of voices speaking out against the exploitation of wild animals for entertainment purposes has grown over the last years, with people increasingly calling for an end to be put to such practices.

Wild animals' presence in circuses is not only an animal welfare issue but a major public safety and security issue too. Over the past 24 years, 478 incidents involving 889 wild animals have been recorded in EU circuses.

In response, some Member States have decided to ban travelling circuses from having them. Others, however, have no such restrictions, which seriously complicates efforts to monitor the movement of CITES-listed animals. This lack of monitoring inevitably leaves room for wildlife trafficking and systematically allows for cases of abuse to go unnoticed.

1. Does the Commission monitor the movement of protected wild animals?
2. What is it doing to combat any trafficking?
3. Will it discuss the idea of limiting the number of wild animals in EU circuses, and eventually banning their presence in them, with Member States?

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