

**Question for written answer E-000047/2024  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Annika Bruna** (ID)

Subject: Creating marine sanctuaries for cetaceans

Under French Law No 2021-1539 on combating animal abuse<sup>1</sup>, the holding in captivity and breeding of cetaceans will be banned as of 1 December 2026, unless it is justified for scientific research or in a shelter for captive wild animals<sup>2</sup>.

Other Member States are taking steps towards banning the holding of cetaceans in dolphinariums, recognising that captivity suppresses the animals' natural instincts.

However, the countries that have adopted these protective measures do not always have shelters or sanctuaries for captive animals to go to. Without any other solution, cetaceans could just be left in dolphinariums or, worse, exported to countries that place less importance on animal welfare.

1. Although this falls outside the Commission's remit, will it help Member States support research and the creation of marine sanctuaries in the EU?
2. Would it consider contributing to the financing of these sanctuaries, where cetaceans will need to be cared for until the end of their lives?

Submitted: 9.1.2024

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000044387560>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/faune-sauvage-captive>