

**Question for written answer E-000769/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Christel Schaldemose (S&D)

Subject: The import and export ban on sealskin

With regard to the EU ban on the import and export of sealskin, we were able to establish a sensible Inuit exemption to ensure that sealskin can still be sold on the European market. The exemption applies when the seals concerned have been hunted as part of the Inuit peoples' tradition, in a manner that meets certain animal welfare standards.

In the light of a response from the Naalakkersuisut (the Cabinet of Greenland) it is clear that, as they currently stand, the rules do not ensure that only people of Inuit origin can trade in sealskin. The Naalakkersuisut maintains that there is a lack of clarity with regard to how to check that the requirements of the Inuit exemption are being met. Can the Commission explain how, at present and in the future, checks are to be made to ensure that sealskin sold on the EU market meets the requirements of the Inuit exemption, thus helping to safeguard the original identity and culture of the Inuit peoples?

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