

**Question for oral answer O-000042/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 128

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Subject: An EU ban on the movement of wild circus animals

Health controls relating to the movement of circus animals should be applied through Commission Regulation (EC) No 1739/2005 of 21 October 2005 laying down animal health requirements for the movement of circus animals between Member States.

In the EU, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is implemented through a set of regulations known as the Wildlife Trade Regulations, including Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 of 9 December 1996, which go beyond the provisions of CITES in some respects.

However, studies have demonstrated that health checks and controls on trade in and possession of wild animals are difficult to exercise, as circuses not only are on the move for much of the time, but also change their names and the acts they employ.

In addition, the use of wild animals in circuses regularly leads to accidents involving animal tamers, circus employees and members of the public.

The past few years have seen increasing concerns being expressed about the ethics and safety of using wild animals in circuses, which has led to changes in legislation in a number of Member States, 18 of which have already adopted a total or partial ban on their use.

Will the Commission use its new powers under the Animal Health Law to introduce a ban on the movement of wild circus animals within the Union, so as to ensure that exposure to public health and safety risks and the risk of illegal trade in wildlife is uniformly reduced across the Member States, and will it lend assistance to enforcing the national bans that have already been put in place in the majority of Member States?

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Deadline for reply: 25.5.2017