

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0038/04
by Juan Izquierdo Collado (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Illegal imports of dolphins

In 2001 the Portuguese Government, pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97¹ on CITES, banned imports of dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) caught in their natural environment. Spain is currently the only country which allows dolphins to be imported (from Cuba), and once they have been brought into Spain they can be freely moved around the rest of the European Union. Lisbon Zoo has applied to the Portuguese authorities for permits in order to enable it to purchase dolphins from the Oceanográfico in Valencia - dolphins which are brought in from Cuba and which may not be imported directly into Portugal.

When are the EU Member States going to implement coordinated policies in this area, in order to prevent Spain from becoming the gateway to Europe for species which may not be traded in the other EU countries?

¹ OJ L 61, 3.3.1997, p. 1