

**Question for written answer P-014061/2015
to the Council**
Rule 130
Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Massacre of dolphins in the Faroe Islands (Grindadráp)

Each year the inhabitants of the Faroe Islands violently exterminate species of cetaceans even though they are protected by international conventions that have been ratified by the European Union and Denmark. The EU cannot tolerate such prolonged periods of stress being inflicted on what are sensitive, intelligent, conscious and socially complex creatures. The children of the Faroe Islands are allowed to witness the slaughter and to ride on the corpses. Not only does Denmark tolerate such practices but it actually defends them, in contravention of all its European and international commitments.

This summer a number of EU citizens representing nature conservation NGOs were arrested (with the help of the Danish navy) while trying to film the massacres. They were subsequently prosecuted by the Faroese authorities and all received prison sentences.

What measures can the Council take vis-à-vis Denmark and the Faroe Islands, be it through diplomatic channels, legal action or even sanctions (as was the case in 2013 when the EU acted against the Faroes for over-fishing) to call a halt to this strikingly cruel massacre of protected cetaceans?