

**Question for oral answer O-000074/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 128

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Subject: Illegal trade in animals

Trafficking in animals constitutes the third largest illegal trade in the world after drugs and arms, estimated to be worth EUR 15 billion to EUR 160 billion per year. The European Union is often a market for the trade or a transit route.

Several studies report that the amount of ivory traded has tripled in the past 10 years and that a many species are suffering a catastrophic decline. Moreover, despite a number of coercive measures, online sales of illegal animal derivatives continue to prosper.

A 2014 study by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) indicates that a good number of wild animals, animal parts and animal derivatives taken from endangered species can still be found for sale online. Worse still, the study registered 32 % of goods made of ivory and 26 % of goods derived from reptiles.

1. What action has the Commission taken since the adoption, in 2014, of the European Parliament resolution on wildlife crime?
2. The aforementioned study shows that measures to control the illegal trade in wildlife, and in ivory in particular, suffer from shortcomings. What measures is the Commission planning to take to be effective in combating this trade, particularly on the Internet?
3. Bearing in mind the disparities that exist between the Member States, can the Commission guarantee that sanctions against these criminals will really be enforced?

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