

**Question for written answer E-001660/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Isabel Serra Sánchez (The Left)

Subject: Arrest of the environmental activist Paul Watson

The environmental activist and campaigner against illegal whaling Paul Watson was arrested on 21 July in Greenland, where he is being held in a prison in Nuuk on the basis of a politically motivated warrant issued by Japan. This arrest is a further step in the persecution and criminalisation of activists campaigning for environmental protection and against illegal whaling. A Danish court has extended his detention until 5 October pending a decision on whether to extradite him to Japan. Japan continues to systematically flout the moratorium on commercial whaling established by the IWC in 1986.

The rights to liberty, security and freedom of expression, as well as to a fair trial are enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Back in in 2022, moreover, the European Parliament sounded a warning about the persecution of civil society activism.

1. Does the Commission believe the arrest of Paul Watson to be in breach of the Charter of Fundamental Rights?
2. Does it consider that his extradition to Japan jeopardises his right to protest?
3. What will the Commission do to end commercial whaling?

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