

**Question for written answer E-002306/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Emma Fourreau (The Left)

Subject: Illegal whaling in Iceland

There has been an international moratorium on commercial whaling for over 40 years, and the EU stands firmly in opposition to commercial whaling. The EU must meet its legally binding climate targets, and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea mandates doing everything possible to mitigate the impact of climate change on the sea. And yet in 2023 the Commission promised Iceland carbon credits in the form of exemptions from aviation emission allowances.

Great whales, such as the fin whale that Iceland allows to be killed, sequester tonnes of carbon in their lifetimes, and are part of the carbon cycle of the ocean, helping phytoplankton to grow. The ocean is the largest carbon sink on the planet. So our questions are simple:

1. In the Commission's opinion, why is Iceland continuing to allow the killing of great whales when we are battling a climate crisis and great whales are critical to carbon sequestration in the ocean?
2. Why is the Commission helping Iceland skirt its climate responsibilities while Iceland is engaged in commercial whaling?

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