

**Question for written answer E-004658/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)

Subject: Mass killing of pilot whales and dolphins in the Faroe Islands

Recent reports of the practice of grindadráp in the Faroe Islands, where hundreds of pilot whales and dolphins are killed each year, are causing serious concerns. On average, 600–700 deaths are estimated annually, while 2021 saw the largest recorded killing of over 1 400 animals in one day. For 2025, international organisations report almost 1 000 killings. Pilot whales are highly social and extremely intelligent marine mammals, and their systematic slaughter affects the structure and balance of the North Atlantic marine ecosystem. At the same time, scientific research has shown that their meat contains high levels of mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which pose serious risks to public health.

Although the Faroe Islands are not a member of the EU, they benefit from European agreements and partnerships through Denmark, without making corresponding commitments to the protection of marine mammals.

Accordingly:

1. How does the Commission assess these practices in relation to the EU's principles of protection of marine species and biodiversity?
2. Will the Commission consider linking European agreements and funding to clauses on the protection of marine mammals?
3. Will the Commission undertake international initiatives to strengthen the protection of pilot whales and dolphins?

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