Question for written answer E-003651/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Annalisa Corrado (S&D), Lukas Sieper (Renew), Tiemo Wölken (S&D), Brando Benifei (S&D), Thomas Pellerin-Carlin (S&D), Marina Kaljurand (S&D), Jussi Saramo (The Left), Petras Auštrevičius (Renew), Giorgio Gori (S&D), Krzysztof Śmiszek (S&D), Stefano Bonaccini (S&D), Benedetta Scuderi (Verts/ALE), Anja Hazekamp (The Left), Irene Tinagli (S&D)

Subject: Exclusion of purchases of Russian sable pelts from EU sanctions

Under Regulation (EU) 2026/506[1] of 23 April 2026, the Commission included tanned or dressed furs (combined nomenclature (CN) code 4302) among the products subject to the ban on imports from Russia. The measure was explicitly part of the strategy to reduce Russian revenues that contribute to the country's ability to finance its war in Ukraine. Just three months later, however, Regulation (EU) 2026/1848[2] of 23 July 2026 amended this measure, expressly excluding sable pelts from the import ban[3].

Given that sable pelts are a non-essential good intended primarily for the luxury market, and in the light of the objectives of the EU sanctions:

1. How does the Commission justify the change in position that occurred just a few months after the ban was introduced?

2. Is it true that pressure from Italy and Greece influenced the decision?

3. How does the Commission reconcile this decision with the 'Fur Free Europe' European Citizens' Initiative, supported by over 1.5 million citizens, and with the Commission's commitment to evaluate the Initiative's requests?

Submitted: 14.9.2026

[1] Council Regulation (EU) 2026/506 of 23 April 2026 amending Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine (OJ L, 2026/506, 23.4.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2026/506/oj).
[2] Council Regulation (EU) 2026/1848 of 23 July 2026 amending Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine (OJ L, 2026/1848, 23.7.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2026/1848/oj).
[3] https://www.euractiv.com/news/eu-gives-russian-luxury-fur-a-pass/.