

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002339/24
to the Commission
Marion Maréchal (ECR)
(30 October 2024)**

Subject: Review of the EU regulation on seal products

On 19 October 2023, the Commission submitted a report on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1007/2009 on trade in seal products.

Following that report, and at the request of some Member States bordering the Baltic Sea, as well as Norway and Canada, the Commission launched the following year a call for contributions to draw up a review of the regulation and the directive banning the import of skins of certain seal pups and derived products, such as omega-3 capsules and garments made from processed seal skins and fur.

1. In order to address concerns expressed by some animal welfare associations about a possible undermining of the protection of seals, can the Commission explain why it considered it necessary to undertake a review of the EU rules on trade in seal products, when they already contain strict derogations which seem to meet their objectives?
2. Can the Commission also state when it will present the conclusions of its consultations?
3. Which parties have been consulted (associations, public or private bodies...)?

Submitted: 30.10.2024

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(14 January 2025)**

The Fitness Check of the EU Regulation on Trade in Seal Products ⁽¹⁾ and the EU Seal Pups Directive ⁽²⁾ has been launched to assess whether these instruments remain fit for purpose as to their effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value. Such evaluations are common practice in the lifespan of any piece of EU legislation.

A report of the Fitness Check performed by external contractors on behalf of the Commission, which is expected in February 2025, will integrate the results of the public consultation and the call for evidence, a factual summary of which is already available on the Have Your Say portal ⁽³⁾, and of targeted consultations with key stakeholders (public authorities, animal welfare and environmental non-governmental organisations, representatives of fisheries, seal hunters and indigenous communities, academia), as well as literature review/research performed by the contractors to fill possible knowledge gaps.

The report will serve as input to a Commission Staff Working Document to be published in the first half of 2025.

On the basis of the Fitness Check findings, the Commission will consider whether further measures are needed.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2015/1775 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 October 2015 amending Regulation (EC) No 1007/2009 on trade in seal products and repealing Commission Regulation (EU) No 737/2010, OJ L 262, 7.10.2015, p. 1-6.

⁽²⁾ Council Directive 89/370/EEC of 8 June 1989 amending Directive 83/129/EEC concerning the importation into Member States of skins of certain seal pups and products derived therefrom, OJ L 163, 14.6.1989, p. 37-37.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14031-Trade-in-seal-products-fitness-check-of-EU-rules/public-consultation_en