

EN
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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.2.2026)

The Commission acknowledges the strong public concern regarding the protection of marine mammals and the alignment of traditional practices with modern environmental and animal welfare standards. The EU champions biodiversity conservation and marine mammal protection in international fora, including within the International Whaling Commission, promoting sustainable practices that balance conservation with coastal community livelihoods.

At the same time, it is important to recall that the Faroe Islands, while part of the Kingdom of Denmark, are not part of the EU. Under Article 355(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, EU law does not apply to the Faroe Islands. The EU cannot directly intervene in the grindadráp. Regulating whaling remains therefore under Faroese competence. Nevertheless, the Commission followed, will continue to follow and has repeatedly raised this issue in discussions with Danish and Faroese authorities.

Also, the EU continues to raise related concerns with Danish and Faroese authorities, in the context of the Memorandum of Understanding on Enhanced Cooperation between the European Union and the Government of the Faroe Islands¹.

¹ <https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/20240321%20Signed%20MoU.pdf>.