

EN
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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission attaches great importance to the protection of marine biodiversity and to the conservation of cetaceans, as reflected in EU legislation prohibiting the deliberate capture or killing of such species in EU waters¹ and the placing on the market of derived products². Under Article 355(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, EU law does not apply to the Faroe Islands. Nevertheless, the Commission considers that the protection of marine species is a shared international responsibility and continues to promote high conservation standards in its external relations.

The Commission recalls that cooperation with the Faroe Islands is based on separate bilateral agreements. The Commission raises concerns related to cetacean conservation with the Faroese authorities in annual consultation meetings held under the Memorandum of Understanding on enhanced cooperation³. These exchanges provide an opportunity to promote dialogue, transparency and alignment with internationally recognised conservation standards.

At international level, the Commission supports multilateral efforts to improve the conservation of cetaceans, including through relevant international conventions and regional cooperation fora. It will continue to engage with partners, including Denmark and the Faroe Islands, to encourage dialogue, scientific cooperation and alignment with internationally recognised standards for the protection of all cetaceans.

¹ Habitats Directive, Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7–50.

² EU Wildlife Trade Regulation, Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 of 9 December 1996 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein, OJ L 61, 3.3.1997, p. 1–69.

³ <https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/20240321%20Signed%20MoU.pdf>.