

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005028/25
to the Commission**

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(19 December 2025)

Subject: Whale and dolphin hunting in the Faroe Islands

EU law strictly protects all cetaceans, prohibiting their deliberate capture or killing, and banning the commercial import and trade of wild-caught cetaceans and many cetacean-derived products. Continued whaling, or *grindadráp*, in the Faroe Islands therefore raises serious concerns regarding alignment with EU values, as well as animal welfare. In light of the existing agreements between the EU the Governments of Denmark and the Faroe Islands on fishing and fisheries and on the participation of the Faroe Islands in Union programmes, these practices call for a reassessment of the conditions attached to such cooperation.

1. Will the Commission seek to renegotiate or revise the Agreements with a view to introducing clauses that allow suspension or modification of the preferential trade terms should *grindadráp* continue?
2. Will the Commission consider introducing mandatory country-of-origin labelling for fish products from the Faroe Islands to ensure transparency and allow consumers to make informed choices?
3. Will the Commission seek clarification from the Danish authorities concerning reports from NGOs indicating that military and police resources may be involved in supporting *grindadráp* activities or in restricting NGO monitoring?

Submitted: 19.12.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(30 March 2026)

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, is an autonomous territory and therefore have own competence over regulating whaling.

In March 2024, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) ⁽¹⁾ on Enhanced Cooperation between the EU and the Government of the Faroe Islands was signed by President of the Commission and Faroese Prime Minister.

It provides for a forum to exchange, *inter alia*, on marine biodiversity ⁽²⁾, including on whale and dolphin hunting and Faroese measures to manage these questions.

The current framework already provides for origin labelling requirements under the common market Organisation in the fishery and aquaculture products Regulation ⁽³⁾.

For certain categories of fishery and aquaculture products (fresh, chilled and frozen products) the indication of the catch or production area is mandatory, thereby ensuring a significant level of transparency for consumers. The identification of the flag of the vessel is not required under the existing rules.

Regarding alleged involvement of military and police resources in supporting *grindadráp* activities or in restricting non-governmental organisations monitoring, the Commission is not competent to intervene as these issues, including policing matters, are matters for the national authorities concerned.

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

⁽²⁾ Paragraph 6 of the MoU indicates that the parties ‘intend to cooperate on aspects pertaining to conservation and protection of marine biodiversity including for instance marine science and assessment of populations and to support relevant international conventions. The participants take account of the work undertaken under relevant international agreements and commitments on conservation, sustainable use, management and welfare of cetaceans as well as on research on these matters’.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1379/oj/eng>.

The EU will continue to raise the practice of *grindadráp* in the Faroe Islands in relevant dialogues and fora to advocate for high standards of marine protection.
