

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001589/26
to the Commission**
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(17 April 2026)

Subject: Ban on the trade of shark fins

The European Citizens' Initiative 'Stop Finning — Stop the Trade' gathered over 1.1 million signatures and calls on the Commission to introduce a ban on the trade in shark fins, including import, export and transit, even when the fins are still naturally attached to the body.

The Commission has announced that an impact assessment will be carried out, but no clear timeline for follow-up or a legislative proposal has yet been presented.

1. When will the Commission present a legislative proposal to follow up on the initiative?
2. Will the Commission introduce a full ban on the trade in shark fins, including fins that are still naturally attached to the body?
3. What is the exact timeline for these measures, especially following the call for evidence in February 2024 that provided an indicative timeline until the end of 2025? ⁽¹⁾

Submitted: 17.4.2026

Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(29 May 2026)

The European Citizens Initiative (ECI) 'Stop Finning — Stop the Trade' requested the Commission to introduce a ban on 'export and import of loose fins within and through the EU'.

The Commission responded to this initiative in a communication of 5 July 2023 ⁽¹⁾ setting out a triple course of action.

First, continue making the best use of its existing policy tools relevant to shark conservation and management, and step up its international outreach to protect endangered sharks and ensure that the commercial shark populations remain healthy.

Second, increase the EU's capacity to monitor trade in shark products at species level. Third, assess the environmental, social and economic consequences of measures suggested by the ECI and alternative policy measures.

While implementation and enforcement efforts are ongoing, the introduction of new EU commodity codes in 2024 has produced the first annual data on EU trade in shark fins at species level.

In line with its commitment to evidence-based decision making, the Commission organised a call for evidence and a thorough public consultation, followed by an external study to gain an overview of the state of the global shark populations, shark fishing activities, existing regulations, trade routes and markets for shark products.

This study, finalised at the end of March 2026, also provides an initial assessment of a set of policy options, including an EU trade ban on detached shark fins requested by the ECI. Based on these elements, the Commission impact assessment is expected in the second half of the year.

Any specific measures and relevant timelines will depend on the results of the impact assessment.

¹ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=intcom:Ares\(2024\)1369533](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=intcom:Ares(2024)1369533).

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C:2023:275:FULL>.