

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002710/26  
to the Commission  
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(30 June 2026)**

*Subject:* Whale and dolphin hunts in the waters around the Faroe Islands ahead of the upcoming EU-Faroe Islands annual consultation

The next annual consultation between the European Union and the Faroe Islands, under the memorandum of understanding on Enhanced Cooperation between the EU and the Government of the Faroe Islands, is expected to take place later this year. The annual consultations cover topics such as fisheries, trade, marine affairs and broader bilateral cooperation. At the same time, the annual *grindadráp* continues to result in the killing of large numbers of whales and dolphins, including juveniles and pregnant animals, raising serious concerns regarding marine biodiversity and animal welfare.

1. Will the Commission raise the issue of the *grindadráp* during the upcoming annual consultations with the Faroe Islands and, if so, what concrete objectives will it pursue?
2. Does the Commission consider the continuation of the *grindadráp* to be compatible with the EU's objectives on marine biodiversity, sustainable fisheries and responsible ocean governance, which underpin its partnership with the Faroe Islands?
3. If the Faroe Islands refuse to make meaningful progress towards ending the *grindadráp*, will the Commission consider suspending or conditioning the further deepening of EU-Faroe Islands cooperation, including in the fields of fisheries, trade and maritime cooperation, until such progress has been made?

Submitted: 30.6.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission  
(5 August 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) <sup>(1)</sup> on Enhanced Cooperation between the EU and the Government of the Faroe Islands was signed by the President of the Commission and Faroese Prime Minister.

It provides for a forum to exchange on marine biodiversity <sup>(2)</sup>, including on whale and dolphin hunting and Faroese measures to manage whale and dolphin hunting questions.

Discussions are to be pursued under this umbrella. While recognising that the Faroese authorities maintain their own regulatory framework governing cetacean hunting practices, the EU promotes exchanges on conservation, animal welfare and the improvement of practices affecting cetaceans.

The Faroe Islands have also been associated with EU research and framework programmes since 2010, reflecting the longstanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

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 globally.

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

<sup>(2)</sup> 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'.