

Oral Question to the Commission

Objet: An EU ban on the movement of wild circus animals

Health controls for the movement of circus animals should be applied through Commission Regulation (EC) 1739/2005 laying down animal health requirements for the movement of circus animals between Member States.

In the EU, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is implemented through a set of Regulations known as the Wildlife Trade Regulations, including Council Regulation (EC) No 338/972, which go beyond the provisions of CITES in some respects.

However, studies demonstrate that controls for health or trade and possession of wild animals are difficult to exercise, as circuses are not only on the move much of the time, but that they also change their names and the acts they employ.

In addition, the use of wild animals in circuses regularly leads to accidents involving animal tamers, circus employees and public.

The past few years have seen increasing concerns over the ethics and safety of using wild animals in circuses, and this has led to changes in legislation in a number of EU Member States – indeed 18 have already adopted a total or partial ban on their use.

Will the Commission use new powers under the Animal Health Law to introduce a ban on the movement of wild circus animals within the Union, so as to ensure that the exposure to risks for public health and security and for illegal trade of wildlife is uniformly reduced across Member States, and to aid the enforcement of national bans for the majority of Member States that already have it place?

Support signature:

NAME	Signature
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