

**Question for written answer E-014520/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Regulation (EU) No 2015/1775 on seal products

On 6 October 2015 the EU ban on trade in seal products was modified. In that connection, it was again made clear that Inuit seal products are exempt from the ban and the cultural, economic and health-related significance of seals to the Inuit community was very much stressed. Parliament and the Council directed the Commission to inform European consumers about the legality of Inuit seal products.

Article 5a of Regulation (EU) No 2015/1775:

- 'The Commission shall inform the public, with a view to raising their awareness, and competent authorities, including customs authorities, of the provisions of this Regulation and of the rules under which seal products resulting from hunts conducted by Inuit or other indigenous communities can be placed on the market.'

Carrying out that task in a serious manner calls for resources, commitment and a genuine campaign on the part of the Commission. As statistics show a close link between the decline in sealskin exports from Greenland and the introduction of the EU ban, it must be understood that the objective of the requirement to provide information is to restore consumer confidence to pre-ban levels.

Can the Commission therefore say what the budget is for information activities and what strategy is to be pursued in order to restore consumer confidence?