

EN  
E-002432/2022  
Answer given by Ms Kyriakides  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(8.9.2022)

The Treaties<sup>1</sup> recognize animals as sentient beings and require this to be taken into account when formulating EU policies in the area such as agriculture or fisheries<sup>2</sup>.

As stated in the Farm to Fork Strategy<sup>3</sup>, the Commission will revise the animal welfare legislation. The related Inception Impact Assessment<sup>4</sup> did not include a ban on cephalopod farming as an envisaged option. However, an indicative roadmap for the European Food Safety Authority's scientific output in animal welfare, to be delivered from 2023 – 2030, includes cephalopods<sup>5</sup>.

The Commission considers that farming octopuses may risk putting additional pressure on wild fish stocks. It would therefore be desirable that fish feed for octopuses be traceable back to stocks exploited sustainably or that appropriate research be conducted on alternative diets suitable for octopuses farming. 'The strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030'<sup>6</sup> stress the need to ensure sustainable feed systems and recommend the support of the diversification of EU aquaculture to ones with better environmental performance.

As indicated in the reply to written question E-001498/22<sup>7</sup>, the Commission does not prohibit EU funding for octopus farming.

---

<sup>1</sup> Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

<sup>2</sup> Article 13 TFEU also requires the EU and the Member States to respect the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to "religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage" when formulating and implementing animal welfare policy.

<sup>3</sup> COM (2020) 381 A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system.

<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12950-Animal-welfare-revision-of-EU-legislation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12950-Animal-welfare-revision-of-EU-legislation_en)

<sup>5</sup> [https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-10/aw\\_eval\\_revision\\_roadmap\\_efsafinal.pdf](https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-10/aw_eval_revision_roadmap_efsafinal.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> COM(2021)236 final.

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2022-001498-ASW\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2022-001498-ASW_EN.html)