

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE TO END DOLPHINS IN CAPTIVITY¹



Petition to end the keeping of whales and dolphins in captivity

Signatories to this petition do not believe that whales and dolphins in captivity are subjected to a suitable environment as required by the Directive 1999/22/EC*, and therefore request an immediate ban on the construction of new dolphinariums and a prohibition of the trade in whales and dolphins in the **EU Member States, EU Applicant Countries, Turkey, and Switzerland.**

Almost all show and «therapy» dolphins once lived in the open sea as free animals. Successful breeding in captivity is rare. Dolphins are caught in a brutal manner, and literally snatched away from their social groups. In a process that undoubtedly causes much suffering and distress, dolphins are then transported over long distances by truck or plane. Many animals die during this procedure and those that survive are traumatized. A far cry from their ocean home, captive dolphins and whales live the rest of their lives in small concrete tanks or enclosed bay areas, swimming in unending circles.

The monotonous surroundings, restriction of natural behaviours, unnatural social structure, strange food, and inability to escape the constant presence of people causes dolphins' enormous stress. This stress makes them susceptible to chronic disease, low life expectancy and a high mortality rate of any offspring born in captivity.

The capture of dolphins, their trade, and keeping in captivity cannot be justified from an animal welfare or species protection point of view.

* relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos

<i>Last/First Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>E-mail</i> <i>(to receive Newsletter)</i>	*
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* Please send me additional petition forms.

Anyone, regardless of age and nationality, may sign this petition.

¹EAEDC is an Alliance of national and international NGOs working within Europe to end the captivity and trade in whales and dolphins (collectively known as cetaceans) across the borders of the EU, EU Applicant Countries, Turkey, and Switzerland.

European Alliance to End Dolphins in Captivity (EAEDC)

Mission Statement

EAEDC is an Alliance of national and international NGOs working within Europe to end the captivity and trade in whales and dolphins (collectively known as cetaceans) across the borders of the EU and EU Applicant Countries, Turkey and Switzerland.

EAEDC believes that captivity is detrimental to the biological and conservation needs of cetaceans. These intelligent, social, wide-ranging mammals suffer from stress and abnormal behaviours in captivity, making them susceptible to chronic disease, low life expectancy and high infant mortality. In addition, dolphins continue to be captured globally from the wild (or killed during capture operations) threatening the survival of local populations and representing a significant welfare concern.

EAEDC will raise awareness of the welfare and conservation issues related to the keeping of cetaceans in captivity, encourage the public to support a ban on the construction of new dolphinariums and the trade in cetaceans into the European Union and EU Applicant Countries and, through lobbying the European Commission, seek regulation to protect these animals. EAEDC aims to collect at least 1 million signatures in support of this initiative by February 2010. Additionally, on 4th July, "Captive Dolphin Day" will provide a further opportunity for the Alliance to highlight the plight of captive whales and dolphins through a number of public events in Brussels and throughout Europe.

EAEDC believes that captive facilities that keep cetaceans cannot comply with the requirements and objectives of the EU Zoos Directive 1999/22/EC, relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos (to which dolphinariums should comply). Further, that they do not meet the conservation, research or education requirements of the Directive and do, in fact, distort the public's perception of these animals.

Together with the pan-European coalition, ENDCAP, EAEDC will work with national governments and the European Commission, where possible, to influence higher standards for captive cetaceans, until such a time as there are no more whales and dolphins in captivity in Europe.