



Time for the EU to stop octopus farming

2 December 2025 • 15:00-17:00 • Hybrid event
European Parliament, Room Spinelli 3E3 & online

Agenda

15:00 - 15:05 Welcome & housekeeping

Jack Parrock, News correspondent, presenter & conference moderator

15:05 - 15:15 Opening remarks & introductory video

MEP Emma Fourreau, the Left, France

15:15 - 15:25 Octopus sentience

Jennifer Jacquet, Professor of environmental science & policy, University of Miami

15:25 - 15:35 The growing threat of carnivorous aquaculture

Dr Elena Lara, Senior Research & Policy Advisor, Compassion in World Farming

15:35 - 15:45 EU legislative pathways for a ban on octopus farming production & imports

Juliette Robert, Lawyer, Baldon Avocats

15:45 - 15:50 Spanish legislative proposal to ban octopus farming

María González Lacabex, Attorney, INTERCIDS

15:50 - 16:50 Panel discussion followed by Q&A

- MEP Emma Fourreau, The Left, France
- MEP Isabella Lövin, Greens, Sweden
- Jennifer Jacquet, Professor of environmental science & policy, University of Miami
- Jorge Pueyo, Member of the Congress of Deputies of Spain
- Tobias Troll, Marine Policy Director, Seas at Risk

16:50 - 16:55 Call to action

Lily Niederhofer, young octopus advocate

16:55 - 17:00 Closing

Jack Parrock, News correspondent, presenter & conference moderator

17:00 - 18:00 Reception

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Emma Fourreau

MEP, The Left, France

MEP Emma Fourreau is a French politician from the Left group. She is highly committed to the protection of animals and Ocean. To this effect, she co-founded two associations: the first aims to find new homes for abused pets, while the second is aimed at raising awareness about the ecological threats facing the Ocean. In the European Parliament PECH Committee, she is shadow rapporteur for the proposal on Animal Transport, where she is advocating for higher welfare standards during the transport of live aquatic animals.



Isabella Lövin

MEP, Greens, Sweden

MEP Isabella Lövin is a Swedish politician for the Green Party. Previously, she served as Minister for the Environment and honorary Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden. In the European Parliament PECH Committee, she is rapporteur for the proposal on Animal Transport, where she is advocating for higher welfare standards during the transport of live aquatic animals. She is also committed to fostering more sustainable fisheries and aquaculture and promote food systems which contribute to the protection of ocean ecosystems and the animals that live in them.



Jennifer Jacquet

Professor of Environmental Science & Policy, University of Miami

Jennifer Jacquet is a Professor of Environmental Science and Policy at the University of Miami and a leading global voice on the ethics and sustainability of industrial animal production. With a research background spanning environmental economics, marine science, and human behaviour, her work explores how societies can reduce harm to animals and ecosystems through better governance and policy.

Jacquet has authored more than 50 scientific articles and two acclaimed books, and her research has directly shaped international debates on fisheries, aquaculture, and corporate accountability. She is particularly renowned for her influential analyses of octopus farming, demonstrating that the cognitive complexity, sentience and welfare needs of octopuses make intensive farming ethically indefensible and environmentally damaging.

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Dr Elena Lara

Senior Research & Policy Advisor, Compassion in World Farming

Elena Lara has a degree in Biology, a PhD in Marine Biology, and a master's degree in Animal Law and Society. Currently, she is studying part-time for a master's degree in Planetary Health.

Elena has worked on national and international projects on marine ecology and participated in several oceanographic campaigns. Her research has been published in prominent international journals and specialised book chapters. In 2019, she gave a TEDx talk in Spanish titled "Redescubre los peces (Rethink Fish)", and in 2021 authored the CIWF report "Octopus Factory Farming: a recipe for disaster".



Juliette Robert

Lawyer, Baldon Avocats

After training in French and German law, Juliette specialised in environmental law. She completed several internships and notably worked within the "Law and Justice" team of the European Environmental Bureau. She is passionate about the links between democracy and environmental and climate issues.



María González Lacabex

Attorney, INTERCIDS

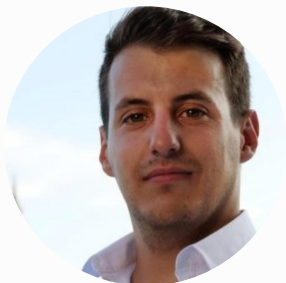
María González Lacabex is a lawyer specialising in Animal Law and Environmental Law. She is a member of the INTERCIDS board, which is an association of legal operators for animals in Spain. María is also the coordinator of the Animal Law Study Group of the Biscay Bar Association (Basque Country, Spain) and founder of the law firm Animalex.

INTERCIDS launched a legal initiative to ban octopus farming in Spain earlier this year, which has been registered as a bill in the Spanish Parliament.

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Jorge Pueyo

Member of the Congress of Deputies of Spain, Movimiento Sumar

Mr Pueyo is a Lawyer, former late night show host and director, and is now a representative in the Spanish Parliament.

As he was born in a small town in the foothills of the Pyrenees one of his main political focuses is the advocacy for the promotion of his mother tongue (aragonese) and the aragonese culture as much as the protection of its landscapes and its pristine environments. The party he stands for is Chunta Aragonesista, which is now integrated in the plurinational parliamentary group of Sumar as a part of this legislative period pact.

Born in 1995, he is also the youngest deputy spokesperson in the history of Spanish democracy and is an active member of the parliamentary association in defense for animals (APDDA). The main goal of this association is to incorporate the animal rights cause to the political agenda.



Tobias Troll

Marine Policy Director, Seas at Risk

Tobias set up EDGE Europe, a community of progressive foundations, and worked at CONCORD, the European confederation of development NGOs. With a master's degree in communication and development education, he is passionate about systemic change, rethinking masculinity, cycling, sauna and the ocean.



Lily Niederhofer

Young octopus advocate

Lily Niederhofer is an 11-year-old marine-life advocate and dedicated "octopus defender." After learning about proposals to build massive commercial octopus farms, she launched the "Octo-Defender Challenge," swimming 2 km in the Atlantic to raise awareness and funds to stop such farms — raising thousands of dollars while spotlighting the plight of these intelligent, sentient animals.

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Moderator



Jack Parrock

Journalist, news correspondent and presenter

Jack Parrock is a journalist, news correspondent, presenter and conference moderator. A specialist in EU affairs, Jack has spent over a decade reporting on the stories out of Brussels, across Europe, and around the world. He is a regular contributor to major global news outlets like Deutsche Welle, Euronews, the Times, and many others, and is a seasoned conference host for EU events, in Brussels and around the world.
