



PRESS KIT

stop-finning.eu

FEBRUARY 2021

#StopFinningEU

It's time for Europe to act!

STOP FINNING

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PRESS INFORMATION

The trade in shark fins in Europe must end immediately!

Every year, between 63 and 273 million sharks die as a result of human activity.¹ The exact numbers remain speculation, as there is a lack of reliable data and the worldwide number of unreported cases of illegal fishing is extremely high. Sharks are hunted worldwide, primarily because of their fins. These are eaten especially in the Asian region as shark fin soup. For this supposed delicacy, with a few grams of fins, up to 90€ are required.² A lucrative business with huge profit margins at the expense of the sharks!

The fins are often caught in a cruel way by "finning". Finning means that the sharks' fins are cut off alive. The animals are then thrown overboard because their meat is almost worthless compared to the fins. Without fins the sharks sink to the seabed where they suffocate, bleed to death or are eaten alive.

Although since 2013 the "Fins Naturally Attached" regulation of the European Union³ prohibits without exception the storage, transshipment and landing of all shark fins in EU territorial waters and on all EU vessels, the EU is one of the largest exporters of fins and a major transit hub for the global trade of fins. The EU is a major player in shark fisheries and, because there are few inspections at sea, fins continue to be illegally retained, transhipped or landed in the EU.

The citizens' initiative "Stop Finning – Stop the Trade" aims to end the trade in fins in the EU, including the import, export and transit of fins that are not naturally present on the body of the animal. As the removal of fins ("finning") prevents effective conservation measures for sharks, the citizens' initiative requests that Regulation (EU) No 605/2013 be extended to trade in fins and therefore calls on the Commission to draft a new regulation extending the criterion of "fins naturally present on the body" to all trade in sharks and rays in the EU.

Additionally, to the citizen's initiative a charitable association was founded – StopFinningEU e.V.

¹ IUCN Shark Specialist Group, Frequently Asked Questions: Sharks, Rays, and chimaeras; <https://www.iucnssg.org/faqs.html>.

² Kimley, Peter A. Peter, The Biology of Sharks and Rays, 2013, S. 451.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32013R0605>

FACTSHEET

	Citizen's initiative	Association
Founding year:	2019	2020
Name:	Stop Finning – Stop the Trade	StopFinningEU e.V.
Legal structure:	European Citizens' Initiative	Charitable association
Representative:	Spokespersons Nils Kluger Alexander Hendrik Cornelissen (substitute)	Board Nils Kluger (chairman) Christian Hempel Karen Reinhardt
Member:	13 further members from the European countries	
	Luis Miguel Fonseca Alves Portugal	Veerle Gishlain Roelandt Italy
	Katrien Vandeveld Belgium	Chrysoula Gkoumpili Greece
	Monica Gabell Sweden	Sabine Reinstaller Austria
	Fernando Frias Reis Spain	Fabienne Rossier France
	Frédéric Xavier Le Manach France	Alexandar Dourtchev Romania
	Julian Engel United Kingdom	Andrew Mark Griffiths United Kingdom
Objective:	The aim of the initiative is to end the trade of fins in the EU, including the import, export and transit of fins that are not naturally attached to the body of the animal.	
Press contact:	Nils Kluger, media@stop-finning.eu	

INITIATORS



Nils Kluger, Spokesperson

„With this initiative we as citizens have the chance to speak out against illegal finning and catching of sharks purely for their fins. The trading of fins from Europe must stop!”

Nils is a shark conservation activist and scuba diving instructor. He has been diving with sharks around the world and experienced both their beauty and meaning for marine ecosystems as well as the threats humans pose to their existence. Nils is working for Sharkproject, an international initiative for shark conservation.

„Sharks are the most underappreciated animals in the oceans, sheer perfection and beauty. The importance of sharks in the eco-system is fundamental in the survival of the oceans; we need to step up our measures to protect sharks.”

Alex is the CEO of Sea Shepherd Global. Through his work for Sea Shepherd he has witnessed first-hand the devastating effects of shark fishing on shark populations worldwide. He has also had the privilege to dive with sharks in many remote areas.



Alex Cornelissen, Substitute Spokesperson

THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE PROCEDURE

To be validated, a European Citizen's Initiative must gather at least one million signatories overall and reach a threshold for at least seven Member States. The minimum number required is about 750 times the number of members of the European Parliament in that state - in Germany, for example, the number of signatures is 72,000.

Member State	Threshold
Germany	72 000
France	55 500
Italy	54 750
Spain	40 500
Poland	38 250
Romania	24 000
Netherlands	19 500
Belgium	15 750
Czech Republic	15 750
Greece	15 750
Hungary	15 750
Portugal	15 750
Sweden	15 000
Austria	13 500
Bulgaria	12 750
Denmark	9 750
Slovakia	9 750
Finland	9 750
Ireland	8 250
Croatia	8 250
Lithuania	8 250
Latvia	6 000
Slovenia	6 000
Estonia	4 500
Cyprus	4 500
Luxembourg	4 500

DOWNLOADS & INFORMATION

EU Citizens' Initiative: <https://eci.ec.europa.eu/012/public>

General information about the EU Citizens' Initiative:
<https://eci.ec.europa.eu/012/public/#/screen/home>

Stop-Financing

Website: stop-financing.eu

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