

**Question for written answer E-011272/2014/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Request for the wolf to be declassified under the Habitats Directive and the Bern Convention

At a demonstration at the end of November, French sheep farmers expressed their dismay at the scale of attacks by wolves on their flocks and the disastrous consequences of these attacks for the future of free-range farming in our country.

Today, in France, over 8 000 animals have been reported killed by wolves, i.e. the equivalent of 40 farms and, behind them, 40 families making a living from this type of farming. This situation is all the more intolerable for farmers because the wolf has not been under threat of extinction since 2009 and its population has continued to grow in recent years.

The financial and psychological consequences of these attacks today cast doubt on the future of the whole sheep sector.

The opportunities for action by the public authorities in the face of this problem are limited by the application of the Bern Convention and the Habitats Directive, which classify the wolf as a 'strictly protected' animal.

Given this resurgence of wolves, does the Commission intend to re-open the dialogue with farmers on a possible revision of the Habitats Directive (removing the wolf from Appendix IV of the Directive) and on the declassification of the wolf under the Bern Convention (declassification of the wolf under Appendix II of the Convention)?

As regards the new platform for exchanges about the coexistence between man and large carnivores, could the European Commission indicate whether, since its creation, there have been any concrete results on this issue?

More generally, could the Commission give us more information about the recent work of this platform?