

**Question for written answer E-006496/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Protection of the Iberian wolf in Spain

Under the Habitats Directive, the Iberian wolf is a strictly protected species in Spain south of the River Duero.

However, in response to pressure from livestock farmers, the Castile and Leon Regional Government shot dead four wolves in June, claiming there to be a technical and scientific basis for the elimination of such populations, when there is no documentary evidence for this and it conflicts with the available scientific evidence on the impact of the indiscriminate killing of individual animals and the persecution of large carnivores.

The most recent national survey of the wolf population was conducted 25 years ago, and the Spanish Government has not required the autonomous communities to fulfil their legal requirement to protect wolves to the south of the Duero by way of recovery plans, despite their becoming extinct in regions such as Extremadura.

Persecuting wolves does nothing to solve the problems of extensive livestock farmers, as the crisis in which they find themselves is linked with many other factors and their abandonment by the authorities.

Will the Commission take action in response to this serious breach of the Habitats Directive by the regional authorities with the complicity of the Spanish Government?

Will it urge the Spanish Government to ensure that wolf recovery plans are developed within the autonomous communities?