

**Question for written answer E-007212/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Franck Proust (PPE)

Subject: Status of the *Canis lupus* wolf

The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) protects the *Canis lupus*, which is included, *inter alia*, in Annexes II and IV to Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive).

Many French sheep farmers are having to deal with an increase in the number of *Canis lupus* attacks on their flocks. Likewise, it should be noted that this species of wolf is widespread in France (around 300 individuals, with a 20% growth rate). At the time, protection of this species was justified by the very small number of such wolves.

However, the current rules regarding wolves seem to be inappropriate and it is now widely acknowledged that urgent action needs to be taken.

Further to our question of 6 November 2014, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Have any specific studies been carried out on the situation of this species in the EU and the impact it is having on the livestock breeding sector?
2. Will it propose that the classification of the species be changed from 'strictly protected' to 'protected' under the Bern Convention?