

**Question for written answer E-001164/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Farmers in Slovenia are very concerned about large carnivores attacking their livestock

Livestock farmers in Slovenia are extremely worried about large carnivores attacking their livestock. This is happening year after year, putting at risk what is often their main source of income and hence their livelihoods. In Slovenia, the conservation status of bears and wolves is good and measures urgently need to be taken to manage the populations in order to prevent attacks.

Large carnivores (bears, wolves, lynx) are strictly protected species in the EU under the Habitats Directive. The possibilities for population control are therefore very limited. The Commission's 'Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species' takes too little account of the differences between Member States as regards the status of large carnivore populations. Countries where the conservation status is not a concern are subject to the same restrictive measures as countries where the population is at risk, even if substantial economic damage is caused.

Experience has shown that the guidance should take better account of the differences between countries where the status of a population is good and those where it is less so, and that a one-size-fits-all approach does not work.

In view of the above:

In the new guidelines on the strict protection of animal species, how will you take into account the differences between countries as far as the status of a population is concerned?

Will the new guidelines be ready by the start of this year's grazing season?