

**Question for written answer E-002239/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Jan-Christoph Oetjen** (Renew)

Subject: Management of wolf populations in the central European lowlands

The return of wolves to Germany is a matter that equally concerns both animal welfare defenders and farmers with grazing animals. To the former group, the conservation of the protected species is of overriding interest, while the other fears serious economic damage due to the killing by wolves of rising numbers of farm animals on German pastureland. The farmers concerned not only need support for the protection of their flocks but also need regulation of the wolf population at favourable conservation status.

In Germany and western Poland, wolves form part of the central European lowland population. It has its origins in the eastern European wolf population, living in eastern Poland and eastern Europe. Gene flow occurs between wolves in the two populations.

The Habitats Directive sets a limit of 250 animals for the sound conservation status of populations which, like the central European one, have gene flow with other populations.

1. Does the Commission acknowledge that the central European lowland wolf population came into existence as a result of migration from the eastern European wolf population, and that these two populations are linked by gene flow?
2. Does the Commission believe that favourable conservation status has been achieved in the central European lowland population?
3. Does the Commission perceive scope for initiating active management of this population?