

**Question for written answer E-002333/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jutta Paulus (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Breach of EU law in connection with the protection of protected species in Germany

Under Annex IV of Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive), the wolf is a species which is in need of strict protection. The conditions for derogations are set out precisely and conclusively in Article 16(1) of the Directive. They are to be interpreted in a restrictive manner¹.

The killing of lone wolf GW717m was ordered by the Lower Saxon State Department for Water, Coastal and Nature Conservation in Norden (East Friesland) on two occasions between 2018 and 2020. The reason was the killing of grazing animals and the risk that hunting techniques which are not typical and unacceptable in the cultivated landscape would be passed on to young animals.

Since the wolf in question could not be killed in this period, Lower Saxony authorised the shooting of the whole pack until such time as GW717m was dealt with. Two young animals aged between 1 and 2 years were killed during the search for GW717m.²

A corresponding federal law authorising similar regulations in all federal states was approved on 14 February 2020.

1. Does the Commission think there is a contradiction between the rules in Germany and the strict protection of the species in accordance with Annex IV of the Habitats Directive?
2. What action is the Commission taking to encourage the Member State in question and the subordinate authorities to comply with the Habitats Directive?

¹ Judgment of 10 October 2019, *Luonnonsuojeluyhdistys Tapiola*, C-674/17, EU:C:2019:851, Rn. 30

² <https://www.umwelt.niedersachsen.de/startseite/aktuelles/pressemitteilungen/abschluss-eines-wolfes-aus-dem-rodewalder-rudel-bei-nienburg-weser-199241.html>