

**Question for written answer E-001285/2022**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Rosanna Conte (ID)**

**Subject:** Increase in numbers of large carnivores in Europe

The population of large carnivores in Europe has recently been swelling to such a point that this is having adverse consequences for livestock farmers and other farmers. In fact, attacks – mainly by bears and wolves – on livestock, and in some cases on humans, have become increasingly frequent.

The situation is exacerbated by the preventive measures taken against large carnivores, the costs of which, in terms of time, money and labour, have to be met by farmers, and which also have an adverse impact on the landscape and on biodiversity.

In 2020 alone, the estimated costs of compensation for damage to property and animals amounted to almost EUR 30 million, in addition to the psychological damage to farmers and livestock subject to constant stress.

The current legislation<sup>1</sup> provides that the annexes thereto should be updated so as to adapt the protection status of species based on the evolution in their populations in Europe.

However, the Commission has yet to bring forward any proposals on adaptation to the new circumstances.

In the light of the above, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Why has it not brought forward any proposals on the adaptation of the annexes to the Habitats Directive?
2. What measures will it take to tackle the increase in the population of large carnivores in Europe?

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<sup>1</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora;