

**Question for written answer E-003570/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Allowing wolf hunting for the purposes of population management

In many German federal states, local wolves have established stable populations. With wolf populations rising by 30% annually and wolves reproducing at an increasing rate in the sufficiently large habitats Germany offers, the animal's conservation status can be said to be favourable in accordance with the criteria under the Habitats Directive.

Preventive measures, such as the setting up of protected areas, have, in many areas, proven to be of scant effectiveness in protecting livestock. What is more, fencing off habitats creates barriers for other species and contributes to erosion of the landscape, leading to species decline.

In many areas, livestock farming is already under serious threat.

The reform of the German Nature Protection Act in 2020 has not had the desired conservation effect. Wolf population management in other EU Member States like France and Sweden offers practical, sensible solutions for a sustainable wolf population management strategy that is in line with species protection regulations.

In view of this:

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the conservation status of wolves in Germany, and what does it think about the exchange of German wolf packs with their packs of origin in Eastern and Southern Europe? What criteria will be taken into account for the regular reporting of the wolf's conservation status?
2. What is its view of the proposal to introduce an effective wolf management strategy modelled on that in other European countries?
3. At Germany's request, would it be willing to reclassify wolves under Annex 5 rather than Annex 4 of the Habitats Directive, so that effective population management can take place if the wolf's conservation status in Germany is favourable?

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