

**Question for written answer E-001358/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**David McAllister (PPE), Lena Düpont (PPE), Jens Gieseke (PPE)**

**Subject:** Safety of North Sea dykes jeopardised by wolves killing sheep

Hunting communities along Lower Saxony's North Sea coastline are deeply concerned. They have therefore adopted a position paper, the 'Auricher Declaration'. Lower Saxony has 610 km of storm flood dykes and 1 000 km of tide-dependent dykes through large river estuaries. 14 % of the land area is directly protected. However, the dykes must be continuously grazed upon by sheep in order to remain safe. Protecting the sheep with 'basic wolf-repellent measures' is not feasible. An increasing number of livestock farmers feel their livelihoods are at threat, as wolf deterrent fences are neither practicable nor viable solutions for protecting their flocks. People have thus reached their limit with the idea that the wolves should be protected at all costs. In view of the exponential increase in the number of wolves, prioritising their conservation above that of all other biodiversity can no longer be justified.

1. Will the Commission review the EU Wolf Strategy and re-examine the protected status of wolves under Annexes II and IV of the Habitats Directive?
2. What does the Commission make of the call to establish wolf-free zones in coastal rural areas in order to protect the nature-friendly practices of livestock and pastoral farming, as well as local grazing livestock farming, which ensure the safety of dykes and coastlines?
3. What is the Commission's view on the call for priority to be given to protecting dykes and maintaining their safety to safeguard human lives, which as a goal sits at odds with the protected status of wolves?

Submitted: 26.4.2023