

EN

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Answer given by Mr Sinkevičius
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.7.2023)

As indicated in its reply to written question E-1358/2023, the Commission explained its approach to the evaluation of the protection status of the wolf in its reply to the European Parliament resolution on the protection of livestock farming and large carnivores in Europe¹. As indicated therein, in the course of 2023, the Commission will carry out an in-depth analysis of all available scientific and technical data, and all other relevant circumstances at hand, to assess whether further measures are needed, including for adapting the protection status of species of Community interest based on technical and scientific progress.

As explained in replies to written questions E-6658/2020 and E-3570/2022, a species' population is only one of several parameters to assess its conservation status under the Habitats Directive². Other parameters include range, available habitat and future prospects for the species. According to Article 1(i) of the Habitats Directive, the conservation status is considered as 'favourable' when population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis. It is for national authorities to assess these parameters based on scientific monitoring data, for which the Commission issued guidance³. The next assessments of the wolf's conservation status in Germany, covering the period 2019-2024, are to be submitted to the Commission by July 2025.

¹ <https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/spdoc.do?i=59145&j=0&l=en>

² Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7–50.

³ https://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/habitats_art17. On how to assess the population parameter, see Reporting format, Part C. The concept of 'favourable reference population' is further explained in the Guidelines on concepts and definitions, Section 1.3.