

**Question for written answer E-001611/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
David McAllister (PPE)

Subject: Current wolf policy has failed

The current strategy for dealing with wolves must be changed. Downplaying and denying this fact has only put it more starkly at odds with livestock farming. The result of this failed policy is untrammelled growth in Germany's wolf population, which has now reached favourable conservation status several times over and stands out internationally. Meanwhile, the problems faced by livestock farmers are not being taken seriously. Herd protection measures are not the only answer to the conflict. Any solution that leaves the wolf population unchecked, consigning sheep, goat, cattle and horse farming to German history, will not be met with rural support. With more than 2 000 animals as part of the Baltic-East European population, wolves are not endangered in Germany, where favourable conservation status and the basis for population management have been reached. In 2021, 3 374 livestock animals across Germany were killed or injured by wolves, or went missing.

1. Is the Commission finally planning to downgrade the protection status of the wolf from Annex IV to Annex V of the Habitats Directive at EU level?
2. When and to what extent might we expect this reclassification?
3. If the Commission has no such plans, can it say which figure the wolf population must reach before it will agree that a sound conservation status has been reached in Germany?

Submitted: 22.5.2023