

**Question for written answer E-002252/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Law on the culling of wolves in the province of Bolzano

By means of Provincial Law no 143/23 on protected grazing areas and measures for the removal of wolves, the province of Bolzano has made it legal for wolves to be shot on its territory. This has sparked objections that the law violates the Habitats Directive¹, implemented in Italy through Presidential Decree no 357 of 8 September 1997, which lists the wolf in Annexes B and D and prohibits its capture, killing, disturbance, possession, transport, exchange and trade.

One aspect of the law that is clearly at odds with the Habitats Directive is the fact that it explicitly waives the obligation for the province of Bolzano to request the opinion of the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research prior to the capture or killing of wolves, in accordance with the authorisation criteria in force.

1. What is the Commission's view of this manifestly illegal legislation adopted by the province of Bolzano?
2. What countermeasures could it take to safeguard protected species in the province of Bolzano?

Supporter²

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¹ 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).

² This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE)