

**Question for written answer E-002716/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Annika Bruna** (ID)

**Subject:** Increasing the number of guardian dogs and guardian dog training centres to balance livestock farming and wolf protection

The French Government presented its 2024-2029 wolf plan on 18 September 2023, proposing increased compensation for livestock farmers (12 000 animals were attacked in France in 2022), more relaxed rules on defence shooting, and developing protection methods for livestock.

The latter point has particularly caught our attention: there are not enough livestock guardian dogs – like the Pyrenean mountain dog – which are larger than herding dogs. Training centres for those dogs are also lacking. The number of dogs used to protect a herd must be proportional to the wolf population, which has been re-estimated at 1 104 in France.

1. Before amending Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) and changing wolves' status from a 'strictly protected' species to a 'protected' species, does the Commission intend to check that Member States have enough of these kinds of dogs and related training centres?
2. Does the Commission believe that Member States have given their livestock farmers enough support to implement other ways of protecting their herds, such as audible, visual or olfactory deterrents?

Submitted: 20.9.2023