

**Question for written answer E-000440/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)**

Subject: Tackling the excessive population of wolves in the Rhodope mountains

Falakro, with its highest summit, Profitis Ilias, standing at 2 232 metres, dominates the north of the prefecture of Drama. Close to the border between Greece and Bulgaria, it defines the region's topography.

Its rich flora includes over a thousand species, with noteworthy fauna including large mammals such as wolves, bears, deer and wild boar.

The mountain meadows host rare vegetation, and as a result an area of 10 560 hectares has been included in the Natura 2000 network of protected areas.

For many reasons, the wider area around Falakro has an increased wolf population, as is the case in many regions of Greece, particularly those with high numbers of wild boar.

Wolves pose a threat to livestock farms, domestic animals, pets and – above all – residents.

Member States have the appropriate tools under existing EU law and policy to protect grazing animals and the balance of nature by culling wolves to prevent serious damage to animals, provided that all the conditions laid down in Article 16 of the Habitats Directive are met.

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Are Greece and Bulgaria cooperating to tackle the increased number of wolves in the Rhodope mountains?
2. Can hunting be encouraged, in order to tackle the problem?
3. What other methods could help to tackle the large number of wolves?

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