

**Priority question for written answer P-001214/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Study on adapting the protection status of the wolf

The return of the wolf to an urbanised area such as Flanders is giving rise not only to many conflicts in connection with human activity (including as regards livestock farming and animals kept as a hobby), but also to a high level of concern in some regions. This is also impacting animal welfare in the regions concerned. The management measures and derogations under the current legal framework do not sufficiently address this. In its response to Parliament's resolution (P9_TA(2022)0423) on the protection of livestock farming and large carnivores in Europe, the Commission stated that in 2023 it would be carrying out an in-depth analysis of all available scientific and technical data, and all other relevant circumstances at hand, in order to assess whether further measures are needed, such as adapting the protection status of the wolf on the basis of technical and scientific progress.

1. When specifically can the Commission's analysis be expected?
2. Is the Commission considering downgrading protection for the wolf so that more management measures are possible?
3. Is the Commission considering updating the guidelines with a view to interpreting the current rules more flexibly in order to allow for more management measures and derogations in urbanised and fragmented regions where there are conflicts?

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