

**Priority question for written answer P-002703/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Roman Haider (ID)

Subject: Periodic assessment of the protected species listed in Annexes IV and V to Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)

In the light of Parliament's call on the Commission to assess and, if necessary, modify the protected status of wolves, and in view of the considerable confusion surrounding the Habitats Directive, it is advisable to carry out overall reassessment and adaptation of the directive at regular intervals. This call for such action is prompted by the various changes there have been, concerning protected species, since the Habitats Directive came into force in 1992. For instance, the populations of some protected species have recovered far beyond the conservation level, meaning that there should be a reassessment of the strict protection stipulated in Annex IV to the Habitats Directive. For other species, however, the trend is negative. Accordingly, following on from reassessment, the protected status for them should be upgraded.

1. What is the Commission's view of the proposal to carry out a periodic assessment of all protected species listed in Annexes IV and V to Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)?
2. Does the Commission consider a six-yearly periodic assessment of the protected species listed in Annexes IV and V to the Habitats Directive to be appropriate?
3. What other solutions does the Commission have for reassessing the populations of protected species?

Submitted: 19.9.2023