

**Question for written answer E-002215/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
João Oliveira (The Left)

Subject: EU intervention to weaken the protection status of the Iberian wolf under the Bern Convention

The Iberian wolf (*canis lupus signatus*) has been a protected species in Portugal since 1988. Packs south of the River Douro are in a particularly delicate situation. The species' population is complex and is made up of small, scattered packs.

In the light of these circumstances, there are some priority measures to protect the species and help it live alongside human populations.

The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) provides guidelines for policies to protect species and habitats.

The proposed change to wolves' protection status under the Bern Convention from 'strictly protected' to 'protected', raises obvious concerns.

In view of the above:

1. What is the European Union's justification for intervening in this process and, in particular, for taking a position that goes against Portugal's situation and specific needs?
2. Could the Commission please provide scientific opinions that justify the EU's intervention, and those relating to Portugal in particular?

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