

**Question for written answer E-002313/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Valentina Palmisano (The Left)

Subject: Conservation status of wolves – proposal for downgrading

At the Coreper meeting on 25 September, the Council adopted a decision to submit a proposal to change the conservation status of the wolf from strictly protected species (Annex II) to protected species (Annex III), ahead of the 44th meeting of the Standing Committee on the Berne Convention in December 2024.

This request is based on estimated data rather than meaningful population studies, and data on predators' activities can often not be attributed to wolves since, as scientific publications have pointed out, they are not certified by forensic veterinarians. Nor have adequate deterrence and damage compensation systems been set up or provided with EU funding.

Downgrading of the status of wolves, a key species for the balance of ecosystems, would be an open door to bloody containment policies that would compromise the species.

In light of the above:

1. What scientific evidence and data has justified the Commission's support for downgrading the wolf's conservation status?
2. How does the Commission intend to promote a science-based policy on the use of methods of deterrence, prevention of predation and compensation certified by specialised forensic veterinarians to promote coexistence between wolves and human activities?
3. How does the Commission intend to ensure the conservation of the species in a manner compatible with the objectives of the European Green Deal?

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