

**Question for written answer E-002639/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
César Luena (S&D)

Subject: Data supporting the proposal for changing the protection status of wolves

In its reply to question E-002040/2024, the Commission cites data from an analysis carried out in 2023¹ to justify a change in the protection status of wolves, referring both to the wider distribution area and the increase in wolf populations.

However, this analysis also points out that: some populations are small with fewer than 1 000 mature individuals, the threshold below which a population would be listed as ‘Vulnerable’; estimates of wolf numbers vary greatly across different countries due to the lack of a census method for counting wolves and uniform monitoring; the conservation status of wolves in many Member States is ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ or ‘unfavourable-bad’; and of the thirty nine national biogeographic assessments reported in the previous six-year reporting period (2013-2018) sixteen were ‘unfavourable-inadequate’, three were ‘unfavourable-bad’ and two were unknown.

In view of the above:

1. Why didn’t the Commission wait for the next six-year report before presenting its proposal, which is not based on accurate population data?
2. Why does the Commission buy into the alleged positive trend, which indicates that the conservation status of wolves is favourable?
3. Why has the Commission not taken precautions and focused its efforts on damage prevention?

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¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/env/items/813295/en>.