

Question for written answer E-003563/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
César Luena (S&D)

Subject: Impact of forest fires on biodiversity and on populations of protected species such as the wolf

Forest fires are a growing threat to biodiversity, causing habitat destruction and affecting protected species such as the wolf, whose protection status in the EU was recently downgraded from ‘strictly protected’ to ‘protected’, allowing them to be hunted. Despite their well-documented negative impact, management measures following the fires have remained unchanged in many areas, with hunting being allowed to continue without any consideration of the severe disruption experienced by ecosystems and species.

1. What is the Commission’s assessment of the effects of forest fires on European biodiversity and on protected species such as the Iberian wolf?
2. Taking into account the surveillance obligation covered in Article 11 of the Habitats Directive and the provision of Article 14(2) on the ‘temporary or local prohibition of the taking of specimens in the wild and exploitation of certain populations’ to maintain the favourable conservation status of the species in Annex V, does the Commission not believe that it would be justified to limit or prohibit hunting to preserve the protected species affected by fires?
3. Will the Commission take into account the impact of the fires on Iberian wolf populations when assessing the six-yearly reports submitted by Member States in accordance with Article 17?

Submitted: 16.9.2025