

Question for written answer E-003872/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
César Luena (S&D)

Subject: Trophy hunting of wolves in La Rioja and compliance with EU Law

From October, the government of La Rioja, will authorise, pursuant to Order AGM/36/2025, the hunting of wolves for recreational purposes and trophy hunting for a fee of EUR 1 298.67, without establishing hunting quotas or providing up-to-date scientific data.

Bearing in mind that La Rioja has only one wolfpack and shares four others with Castile and León, and that the deaths of some of their number could affect the composition of the pack, disrupt reproduction and disperse the wolves, which would affect the viability of the pack, the following questions arise:

1. Does the Commission not consider that where such fragile populations are concerned, this method of hunting for recreational purposes, without clear quotas or scientific justification, could lead to the local or regional disappearance of the wolf or cause serious disturbance, contrary to Article 15 of the Habitats Directive and Article 8 of the Bern Convention?
2. Does the Commission consider that this type of measure contributes to achieving a favourable conservation status, as required under the Habitats Directive?
3. Does the Commission not consider that, in regions with such reduced populations, the cumulative impact on their conservation status should be kept in mind, with account being taken of habitat loss and fragmentation, wildfires and, now, the exploitation of the species as hunting targets?

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