

**Question for written answer E-003967/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Hilde Vautmans (Renew)

Subject: Capacity and cost management of wolves in small regions

In January 2025, the Commission published a study entitled ‘Developing methodology for setting favourable reference values for large carnivores in Europe’. Among other things, it addresses the specific situation of very small countries or regions with little nature or large forest areas, such as Flanders. The study states that in such areas, the favourable conservation status of the wolf can be contributed to without the need for setting quantitative targets. In Flanders, the wolf population is currently very small, but the social and economic costs are disproportionately high, partly due to expenditure on wolf-deterrence measures, compensation for damage and supervision.

1. Can the Commission specify the options for determining capacity to contribute to the favourable conservation status, in particular for very small countries or regions with little nature or large forest areas?
2. Can the social and economic costs of wolves be taken into account?
3. Can wolves be managed in such a way that the costs are proportionate to the contribution to favourable conservation status?

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