

Question for written answer E-004117/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Katri Kulmuni (Renew)

Subject: Damage caused by large predators

The Commission Implementing Decision of 31 March 2016 authorises the granting of national aid in Finland for the production and marketing of reindeer and reindeer products. When it comes to compensation for damage caused by large predators, the maximum amount of national aid is EUR 10 million per year. The Finnish Reindeer Herders' Association has proposed that the ceiling be raised to EUR 20 million.

In 2024, predators caused damage to the reindeer industry totalling EUR 11.09 million, thus exceeding the ceiling set by the Commission. If the compensation due cannot be paid out in full, the amount that each beneficiary receives will be reduced. The forecast for the level of damage in 2026 is close to EUR 14 million. Damage caused by wolves, in particular, has risen sharply.

The EU protects large predators through its legislation and prevents sufficient numbers of them from being removed. The current increase in damage to reindeer herds is mainly the result of the growth in predator numbers. It is unreasonable that, in this situation, EU legislation is also preventing a Member State from paying full compensation to cover the consequences of the excessive protection of predators. The Finnish Constitution provides a guarantee that property rights are protected for all, however, and it is a breach of that guarantee to allow large predators that are protected to destroy reindeer-owners' property without the reindeer owners being fully compensated for the damage caused.

In the light of the foregoing, does the Commission intend to amend the rules on damage to reindeer herds in Finland so that reindeer owners can be fully compensated for the losses they suffer?

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