

**Question for written answer E-004868/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
César Luena (S&D)

Subject: African swine fever, wild boar overpopulation and the wolf's protected status in the European Union

In recent weeks, more than 14 European Union Member States have reported outbreaks of African swine fever (ASF), a disease affecting domestic pigs and wild boar with severe ramifications for animal health and the pig industry, a key meat-producing sector.

The high prevalence of the disease among wild boar populations puts an overpopulation problem that has long been a cause for concern into sharp relief. Although the exodus of people from rural areas is conducive to the proliferation of wild boar, various studies stress the importance of the lack of large natural predators¹ and the close relationship between animal epidemics and disturbances in food chains, in which the wolf plays a key role as the main predator of wild boar.

Considering the above:

1. What view does the Commission take of the relationship between wild boar overpopulation, the spread of ASF and the current situation as to protection of wolves in the Union?
2. Did the Commission consider this type of situation when it proposed downgrading the wolf's protected status?
3. Will the Commission reconsider arrangements for the strict protection of wolves in light of these developments?

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¹ Tarjuelo, R., Luque-Larena, J. J., & Mougeot, F. (2024). Moving towards an ecological management of overabundant ungulates: Insights from wildlife-vehicle collisions and hunting bag data. *European Journal of Wildlife Research*, 70(51). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10344-024-01801-7>.