

Question for written answer E-003984/2026

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Wolf hunting quotas: lack of systemic data

According to EU law, the Member States are obliged to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for all protected species, including *Canis lupus*¹. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic decided to set the wolf hunting quota to 68 individuals² for 2026-2027 and justified the decision as a measure to reduce livestock losses. However, since 2024, the elimination of at least 120 wolves has not led to fewer losses. On the contrary, according to available estimates³, the number of livestock units killed increased from 490 to 774, leading to a massive increase in the amount of compensation paid, namely from EUR 247 884 to EUR 484 081, while wolves were even being eliminated in areas in which no livestock loss had been recorded.

1. The ministry took the latest decision in the absence of a uniform central information system and without collecting clear data on incidents, their locations or conducting a systematic assessment of the damage caused by protected species. Does the Commission consider such an approach science- and data-based?
2. Considering the essential role of wolves in maintaining healthy ecosystems, does the Commission consider that any future decisions on hunting quotas must effectively reflect reliable data on economic damage to livestock and the impact on surrounding areas in which wolf hunting is prohibited?

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¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/1992/43/oj>).

² Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, <https://www.mpsr.sk/download.php?fID=27294>.

³ Hunting Statistical Yearbook of the Slovak Republic 2024, <https://www.forestportal.sk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Polovnicka-statisticka-rocenka-SR-2024-1.pdf>, Hunting Statistical Yearbook of the Slovak Republic 2025, <https://www.forestportal.sk/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Polovnicka-statisticka-rocenka-SR-2025.pdf>.