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E-001806/2024

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.11.2024)

1. The Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) is responsible for providing legally binding interpretation of EU law and ensuring that it is applied consistently across all Member States. It is therefore not for the Commission to comment on specific rulings of the CJEU. However, the Commission is committed to providing support to national authorities in implementing the relevant legislation and court rulings.

2. The Commission acknowledges the concerns of livestock farmers and the need to strike a balance between preserving large carnivores and addressing these concerns. The Commission has continuously encouraged and facilitated dialogue and cooperation among stakeholders on coexistence with large carnivores; issued guidance offering information and advice on how to address conflicts between human activities and strictly protected species, including the wolf; and has provided support through the available financial instruments¹, including with investment and interventions funded within the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plans².

Furthermore, in December 2023, the Commission published a comprehensive study on the wolf in the EU³ addressing the specific issue of predation on livestock and the available tools for national authorities and stakeholders to take appropriate preventive and reactive measures. On that basis, the Commission proposed a Council decision to change the wolf's protection status under the Bern Convention⁴, which was adopted by the Council on 26 September 2024. This Decision has been submitted to the Bern Convention and will be discussed in December 2024.

¹ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/habitats-directive/large-carnivores_en

² https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/cap-my-country/cap-strategic-plans_en

³ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/5d017e4e-9efc-11ee-b164-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_6752