

EN

E-002289/2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.7.2025)

1. Under the Habitats Directive (HD)¹, assessments of the conservation status of protected species are carried out by national authorities based on scientific monitoring data on population², range³, available habitat⁴ and future prospects⁵ for the species.

For transboundary populations, Member States have the possibility⁶ to carry out joint assessments based on their coordinated monitoring systems and agreed assessment criteria and favourable reference values. Such joint assessments would need to be based on the best available scientific evidence, using the above-mentioned criteria, in accordance with the specific guidance elaborated for the reports under Article 17 of the HD⁷.

2. In relation to the obligation to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status⁸ all Member States within the natural range of the relevant species should contribute to that goal: in accordance with the case law of the Court of Justice of the EU, ‘that status must exist and be assessed, in the first place and necessarily, at local and national level, so that an unfavourable conservation status in the territory of a Member State or a part thereof is not hidden by the effect of an assessment carried out solely at a cross-border level which would show that that species is at a favourable conservation status’⁹.

3. The implementation of appropriate prevention measures remains essential to reduce livestock depredations, even after moving the wolf to Annex V of the HD¹⁰. EU funding is available for that purpose, and Member States may introduce in their Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plans targeted interventions based on the identified needs and strategy¹¹.

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7–50.

² Size, trends and structure.

³ Area and trend.

⁴ Quantity, trend and quality.

⁵ Pressures and threats.

⁶ But not the obligation.

⁷ http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/habitats_art17.

⁸ As stated in the Commission’s reply to written question E-006906/2020.

⁹ Judgment of 12 June 2025 in case C-629/23 (paragraph 47):

<https://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=301163&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=3559755>.

¹⁰ As mentioned in the Commission’s replies to written questions E-002879/2023, E-001561/2024 and E-001689/2021.

¹¹ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/habitats-directive/large-carnivores/eu-large-carnivore-platform/eu-funding-and-large-carnivores_en.