

EN

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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(28.11.2025)

1. The Commission recognises the significant impact that catastrophic wildfires have on biodiversity. Large and intense fires are increasing in frequency as a result of climate change and other factors such as land abandonment and subsequent fuel accumulation. To address these challenges, ongoing research is informing policy development¹, and the Commission is preparing a comprehensive guidance document on climate change and Natura 2000. This document will assist Member States in implementing wildfire risk management strategies in sensitive areas, aiming to mitigate the adverse effects on protected species and habitats and to promote the adoption of ecosystem-based prevention techniques.
2. Species listed in Annex V of the Habitats Directive² can be exploited under the condition that their exploitation is compatible with their being maintained at a favourable conservation status. The responsibility for implementing specific management measures, such as regulating hunting following catastrophic wildfires, resides with the Member States. In this framework the Common Agricultural Policy³ offers measures and funding for fire prevention and restoration that could be availed in the country strategy.
3. The European Environment Agency⁴ and the Commission will assess the data reported by Member States under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive on the conservation status of protected habitat types and species, including the wolf. Where wildfires have a significant impact on the habitat condition, or on protected species directly, this is likely to be reflected in the reported data.

¹ For example, the FIRE-ADAPT project, funded under Horizon Europe, focuses on integrated fire management across the Mediterranean and beyond. More information: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101086416>.

² 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.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy_en.

⁴ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en>.