

EN

E-003969/2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(5.12.2025)

According to Article 14 of the Habitats Directive<sup>1</sup>, Member States must take measures to ensure that the exploitation of species listed in Annex V, as is the case of the wolf<sup>2</sup>, is compatible with their being maintained at a favourable conservation status. Considering the prevention and precautionary principles, competent authorities should ensure that decisions related to the hunting of wolf populations listed in Annex V of the Habitats Directive are based on sound scientific evidence regarding the species conservation status.

Thus, whether or not a culling plan is compatible with the requirements of the Habitats Directive in the context of the wolf population management, must be assessed on a case-by-case basis, looking firstly and necessarily at the conservation status at local and national biogeographical level and also, where relevant, at cross-border level, as well as at the conditions and measures included in or accompanying the culling plan. In all cases it is necessary to determine the impacts of an envisaged cull to ensure that it is in line with the maintenance of the population at a favourable conservation status<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Directive (EU) 2025/1237 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2025 amending Council Directive 92/43/EEC as regards the protection status of the wolf (*Canis lupus*), OJ L, 2025/1237, 24.6.2025.

<sup>3</sup> Relevant judgments for the Court of Justice of the EU in Case C-436/22 ASCEL, Case C-601/22 World Wildlife Fund (WWF) F Österreich, and Case C-629/23 Eesti Suurkiskjad).