

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000035/26
to the Commission
Rasmus Nordqvist (Verts/ALE)
(8 January 2026)**

Subject: Compliance of Denmark's wolf conservation status assessment with Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive

In Denmark, the Danish Centre for Environment and Energy (DCE) at Aarhus University is responsible for the scientific assessment of species' conservation status. In correspondence with the Ministry for the Green Tripartite Agreement, the DCE stated that 'there is no other species in NOVANA's monitoring programme that is as well studied and well documented as the wolf'. On the basis of the data gathered and the Commission's criteria, the DCE assessed the wolf in Denmark as having a 'highly unfavourable' conservation status with respect to population size, and consequently an overall conservation status of 'highly unfavourable'. However, as part of its reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive ⁽¹⁾, the Danish Government changed the wolf's conservation status with respect to population size to 'unknown' and reported the overall conservation status as 'favourable'. According to the DCE, regardless of the method of calculation or conversion factor applied to population size, neither the reference population nor favourable conservation status can be achieved.

1. Does the Commission consider this manner of overriding a documented scientific assessment by the competent authority to be compatible with Article 17 of the Habitats Directive and the Commission's assessment guidelines for a Member State?
2. If not, what steps will the Commission take to ensure the accuracy, scientific integrity and comparability of Member States' conservation status reporting?

Submitted: 8.1.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(9 March 2026)**

The Danish report under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive ⁽¹⁾ has been submitted to the Commission, indicating an overall favourable conservation status for the wolf in both continental and Atlantic biogeographic regions ⁽²⁾.

The Danish authorities are primarily responsible for assessing the conservation status of the wolf in their territory. It is important that the conclusion on the conservation status of the wolf is based on the best available scientific data obtained through the surveillance to be carried out by Member States under Article 11 of the Habitats Directive following the agreed guidelines and the precautionary principle.

The European Environment Agency ⁽³⁾ and the Commission are currently assessing the reports submitted by Member States, including the one submitted by Denmark.

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/1992/43/2013-07-01>.

⁽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⁾ <https://reportnet.europa.eu/public/dataflow/1525>.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en>.