

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001233/26
to the Commission
Carmen Crespo Díaz (PPE)
(24 March 2026)**

Subject: Spanish Government's failure to submit report on wolves and diversion of associated compensation funds

According to recent reports, the Commission has initiated proceedings against Spain for failing to submit its report on the conservation status of wolves and other protected species on time, as required by the Habitats Directive

The Spanish Government justifies the delay on the grounds that the scientific basis is inadequate, despite having previously decided to increase the level of protection of wolves throughout Spain, a move that has had significant consequences on the livestock sector.

In addition, it has also been reported that the government diverted around EUR 20 million intended for compensating damage caused by wolves to programmes subsidising electric vehicles, raising doubts as to whether funds were used properly and the sectors affected were tangibly supported.

In light of the above:

1. Can the Commission confirm that Spain has failed to comply with its obligations under Directive 92/43/EEC and what steps does it intend to take if this situation persists?
2. Did the Spanish Government have an adequate scientific basis to justify the overprotection of wolves at national level?
3. Is the Commission aware of any potential diversions of funds intended for compensating damage caused by wolves and, if so, does it consider this to be compatible with EU law?

Submitted: 24.3.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(7 July 2026)**

In view of Spain's failure to comply with its reporting obligations under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive ⁽¹⁾ for the period 2019-2024, the Commission initiated an infringement procedure on 30 January 2026 ⁽²⁾.

In the previous reporting cycle, covering the period 2013-2018, Spain reported the conservation status of the wolf as 'unfavourable' in its three biogeographic regions. It is for national authorities to ensure that the conclusion on the conservation status of the wolf is based on the best available scientific data ⁽³⁾.

The recent amendment of the Habitats Directive ⁽⁴⁾ has changed the protection status of the wolf from 'strictly protected' to 'protected', to align the EU legislation to the Bern Convention.

This change gives additional flexibility to Member States in managing their local wolf populations, so that they can take measures that are well adapted to regional circumstances.

However, Member States are still required to achieve and maintain wolf's favourable conservation status at national and biogeographical level. Member States have discretion to maintain or introduce more stringent protective measures ⁽⁵⁾.

The Commission continues to promote the use of preventive measures to facilitate coexistence with large carnivores, which can be supported by EU or national funds.

EU State aid rules allow Member States to compensate up to 100% of these damages. The Commission continues to assist Member States authorities and stakeholders in the design and implementation of such measures. National authorities are, however, the ones to decide on how to allocate such funds.

⁽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, pp. 7-50.

⁽²⁾ INFR(2025)2214, [https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate&refId=INFR\(2025\)2214](https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate&refId=INFR(2025)2214).

⁽³⁾ Case C-436/22, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/5591/oj/eng>.

⁽⁴⁾ 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.

⁽⁵⁾ Article 193 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.