

EN

P-002233/2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(28.7.2025)

1. The Commission is currently assessing the recently adopted resolution<sup>1</sup> of the Slovak government on culling 350 bears. The Commission has been in contact with the Slovak authorities and asked for more information about the implementation of the resolution and the derogation decisions issued by Slovakia, and about the new methodology used by Slovakia to estimate its bear population.

The Commission is closely following the situation and in case of an established breach will take any action deemed necessary.

2. The brown bear is listed in Annex A of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97<sup>2</sup>, which means that international commercial trade is generally prohibited. Commercial activities involving specimens of species listed in Annex A within the EU are also generally prohibited except in situations described in Article 8(3) of the Regulation. An exemption can be granted by the Management Authority of a Member State on a case-by-case basis if the specimen originated in a Member State and was taken from the wild in accordance with the legislation in force in that Member State. Launching of an infringement case concerning the breach of the Habitats Directive would not impact the legality of proceeds and products based on this provision.

3. Under Regulation No 338/97, the Commission does not have a legal basis to impose interim measures preventing the Member State from issuing certificates pursuant to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Slovak Government resolution 182/2025 of 2 April 2025: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Resolution/22363/1>.

<sup>2</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 of 9 December 1996 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein, OJ L 61, 3.3.1997, p. 1–69.

<sup>3</sup> <https://cites.org/eng>.