

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000197/26
to the Commission
Li Andersson (The Left)
(19 January 2026)**

Subject: Finland's wolf management policy

Finland's wolf population consists almost exclusively of the boreal population estimated between 510 -577 individuals according to 2019 — 2024 reporting. This population is divided into two genetically different subpopulations, which are not genetically viable at their current size. Both lack sufficient genetic exchange between them, which threatens their long-term survival. Scientists suggest that the conservation status should be defined above the minimum viable population and include genetic viability. The Habitats Directive ⁽¹⁾ provides that conservation status can only be favourable when the population of a species can maintain itself on a long-term basis.

The establishment of permanent wolf packs has been actively prevented in the reindeer herding area (RHA) for decades. According to the Natural Resources Institute Finland, there are no wolf packs in the RHA. In autumn 2024, there were six new wolf territories in the RHA, but they disappeared by spring 2025 when all 26 wolves were culled.

1. Can the Commission clarify that Finland cannot set a Favourable Conservation Status for the species if its long-term survival is threatened?
2. Can the Commission clarify that Finland's wolf management policy does not align with EU law?
3. How will the Commission bring Finland's wolf management policy in the RHA in line with EU law?

Submitted: 19.1.2026

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

According to the Habitats Directive ⁽¹⁾, the conservation status of a species will be assessed as 'favourable' when (1) the population dynamics of the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, (2) the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future and (3) there is, and will probably be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its population on a long-term basis.

Member States must define the favourable conservation status in line with the above requirements. In doing so they can take account, where relevant, of the transboundary nature of populations.

Directive (EU) 2025/1237 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2025 amending Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive) as regards the protection status of the wolf (*Canis lupus*) entered into force in July 2025.

Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this directive by 15 January 2027.

The Commission will monitor transposition and implementation of the amended Habitats Directive. The Commission is in regular dialogue with Finnish competent authorities and is currently assessing the information provided by Finland as part of the periodic reporting pursuant to Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, as well as data and recent legislative and policy developments related to wolf management.

¹ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/1992/43/oj>.

⁽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.