

**Question for written answer E-003048/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Removal of wolves from the List of Species under Special Protection Regime

The situation caused by wolf attacks in the Basque Country is alarming and is causing permanent and irreparable damage to livestock farms, where support is urgently needed.

The Basque Government sent the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition a report on management alternatives concluding that the inclusion of wolves in the List of Wild Species under Special Protection Regime in the long term is ultimately harmful. We refer to the Bern Convention Standing Committee's recent acceptance of the EU proposal to lower the level of wolf protection from a 'strictly protected' species to simply 'protected' species.

In addition, the Basque Government has expressed concern in a letter to the EU Commissioner for Agriculture. They call for the removal of wolves from Spain's List of Species under Special Protection Regime formalised in September 2021, and for the protection status to be restored to what it was before that date.

In light of the above:

1. What view does the Commission take of the current situation?
2. What steps will it take in order to have the Spanish Government remove wolves from the List of Species under Special Protection Regime?

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