

Question for written answer E-000102/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Targeted amendment of the Habitats Directive to downgrade the protection status of the wolf

Following the Bern Convention decision to downgrade the protection status of the wolf, the Commission announced that it would propose a targeted legislative amendment to the annexes to the Habitats Directive to allow Member States ‘additional flexibility’ in managing their local wolf populations. It is stated that this amendment would need to be adopted by Parliament and the Council.

However, Article 19 of the Habitats Directive, which predates the Treaty of Lisbon, requires a unanimous decision of the Council to amend its annexes. This procedure bypasses Parliament.

In view of this, can the Commission provide clarification on the following:

1. What legislative procedure does it intend to use to transfer the wolf from Annex IV to Annex V of the Habitats Directive?
2. Will the transfer apply to all EU wolf populations presently in Annex IV, regardless of their conservation status?
3. Can the Commission offer the assurance that any adjustment to the annexes will be made on a scientific basis and that changes to Annex IV may only be adopted if supported unanimously by the Council, as prescribed by Article 19?

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