

**Question for written answer E-004563/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Herbert Dorfmann (PPE) and Lorenzo Cesa (PPE)

Subject: Hybridisation between wolves and dogs

One of the species protected by Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora is the grey wolf, *Canis lupus*. In recent decades, hybridisation between wolves and dogs has come to pose a threat to this species in Italy. The genetic similarities between wolves and dogs and the growing number of wolves whose habitats now stretch across broader areas of the country have made this hybridisation possible.

Does the Commission think that these hybrids count as a species to be protected under the Habitats Directive?

Does it think Italy should take measures to safeguard *Canis lupus* against wolf-dog hybrids at the earliest opportunity?