

Question for written answer E-014555/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Nadine Morano (PPE)

Subject: Revision of the protected status of the wolf

Russian sanctions, the distortion of competition, the lack of competitiveness, bad weather and global overproduction are the reasons for the profound crisis which the European farming sector is experiencing. In some areas, including the far east of France, there is the additional problem of wolf attacks causing significant damage to flocks of sheep. The increasing number of animals killed, as well as the reduction in milk production and farrowing, have major financial and psychological consequences for farmers, who are reluctantly considering giving up the profession. The opportunities for action by the public authorities in the face of this problem are limited by the application of the Bern Convention and the Habitats Directive, which classify the wolf as a “strictly protected” animal. This situation is all the more intolerable because the wolf has not been under threat of extinction since 2009 and its population has continued to grow in recent years.

In view of this situation, can the Commission indicate whether it plans to reopen the dialogue with farmers on a possible revision of the Habitats Directive and the declassification of the wolf in the Bern Convention?