

1. The Commission proposal for amending the status of the wolf under the Bern Convention<sup>1</sup> adopted in September 2024 by the Council of the EU is underpinned by in-depth assessment of the situation of the wolf in the EU<sup>2</sup>. The Commission does not intend to propose any amendments to the Bern Convention, other than those concerning the protection status of the wolf.
2. The Standing Committee of the Bern Convention decided to amend the appendices of the Convention at its meeting in December 2024. Following the entry into force of such amendment, the EU will be allowed to adapt the corresponding annexes of the Habitats Directive<sup>3</sup>. In terms of species, the Commission's proposal will be limited to a modification of the protection status of the wolf only.
3. The Commission will continue pursuing EU nature conservation policy based on sound technical and scientific evidence and in line with EU and global commitments on biodiversity. The Commission assessment confirmed a strong increase of the wolf populations over the last decades and the need to provide more flexibility to Member States that need it to manage them, given the increasing wolf predation-related damages to livestock, in particular in areas where wolf populations have recently recovered. Furthermore, notwithstanding the amendment referred to above, Member States will still be obliged to maintain or restore a favourable conservation status of the wolf on their national territory, in line with the recent rulings of the Court of Justice of the EU<sup>4</sup> and with international commitments on biodiversity.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.coe.int/en/web/bern-convention>

<sup>2</sup> <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/5d017e4e-9efc-11ee-b164-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

<sup>3</sup> 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, p. 7–50.

<sup>4</sup> E.g. Case C-436/22 on wolf hunting in Spain: <https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2024-07/cp240118en.pdf> and Case C-601/22 on derogations to kill wolves in Austria: <https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2024-07/cp240111en.pdf>