



24 March 2011

Ministry of the Environment Sweden
Minister for the Environment

Janez Potočnik
European Commissioner for the
Environment
European Commission
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Dear Commissioner, dear Janez,

We have on several occasions discussed our common wolf issue and, as you know, the Swedish Government's main objective is to secure a long term viable Swedish population of wolves with good genetic status.

The Swedish wolf policy consists of three equally important parts. The first part allows for regional responsibility with decisions being taken close to the people affected. The second part strengthens the genetic situation of the wolf population. The third part permits the limited hunting of wolves in strictly controlled forms. Accomplishing the objectives of the wolf policy, namely a favourable conservation status, requires all three components. We have just recently completed our work with our reply to your letter of formal notice. In our response, we further describe our intense work aimed at meeting the requirements of the habitats directive with consideration taken in relation to local and regional conditions.

An important fact that I would like to stress is that the wolf population during recent years has increased rapidly in Sweden. The return of the wolf to the Swedish fauna and its establishment in new areas has given rise to different types of conflicts with other interests. The issues concerning the presence and management of wolves are of course very important to people living close to the wolf since it affects their ability to keep domestic animals, engage in reindeer herding and hunt with unleashed dogs. The wolf issue in Sweden is thus an important political question due to its effects on people living with wolves in their vicinity.

My ambition is to give you the best possible introduction to the management of wolves in Sweden, and do my best to ensure that you have all the relevant information to base your decision upon. For that reason it is my pleasure to invite you and your Director General Karl Falkenberg, along with the relevant experts from the Commission, to visit Sweden during two days at a time convenient to you, preferably during May/June this year. During your stay I will show you representative

parts of Sweden with dense wolf presence combined with a high total predator presence. Representatives of the rural population, Sami people, hunters, environmental NGO:s and cattle farmers will attend and present their different experiences and views. Leading scientific experts will also inform you about the latest developments in the field of Scandinavian wolf research. Finally representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency and the concerned County Administration Board will present the extensive work that are conducted on various levels within our administration in order to achieve a favourable conservation status for the Swedish wolf population.

I hope you will be able to come to Sweden.

Yours sincerely,



Andreas Carlgren