



# **Update on EU policy for conservation and coexistence with large carnivores**

## Commission proposes to change international status of wolves from 'strictly protected' to 'protected' based on new data on increased populations and impacts

### Page contents

[Top](#)

[Related topics](#)

[Print friendly pdf](#)

[Contacts for media](#)

Today, the Commission is tabling a proposal for a Council Decision to **adapt the protection status of the wolf** under the international [Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats](#), to which the EU and its Member States are parties. The wolf's protection status under the Convention was established based on the available scientific data at the time of negotiation of the Convention in 1979. On the basis of an [in-depth analysis on the status of the wolf in the EU](#) also published today, the Commission proposes to make the wolf **'protected' as opposed to 'strictly protected'**. It follows the [Commission's announcement in September 2023](#) that on the basis of the data collected, it would decide on a proposal to modify, where appropriate, the status of protection of the wolf and to update the legal framework, to introduce, where necessary, further flexibility.

# Wolf in-depth analysis

Publication of the study on **20 December 2023**

- Environmental, legal and political context
- Conservation status
- Role of the wolf in ecosystems and impacts on society
- Available measures to improve coexistence
- Annex on results of data collection (Sept 2023)



# EP Resolution of 24.11.2022 on the protection of livestock farming and large carnivores in Europe

4. Welcomes the fact that the item ‘Proposal for amendment: Downlisting of the wolf (*Canis lupus*) from Appendix II to Appendix III of the Convention’ has been included on the agenda of the 42nd meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention; emphasises that the conservation status of the wolf at pan-European level justifies a mitigation of the protection status and consequently the adoption of the proposed amendment;

8. Calls on the Commission to carry out regular assessments of the scientific data to enable the protection status of species to be adapted as soon as the desired conservation status has been reached, in accordance with Article 19 of the Habitats Directive;



European  
Commission



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Brussels, 20.12.2023  
COM(2023) 799 final

2023/0469 (NLE)

Proposal for a

## **COUNCIL DECISION**

**on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union on submitting proposals for  
amendment of Appendices II and III of the Convention on the Conservation of  
European wildlife and natural habitats with a view to the meeting of the Standing  
Committee of the Convention**

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

*Article 1*

1. The Commission is hereby authorised to submit to the Standing Committee to the Convention, on behalf of the Union, a proposal to move the wolf (*Canis lupus*) species from Appendix II on “Strictly protected fauna species” to Appendix III on “Protected fauna species”.
2. The Commission shall communicate this proposal to the Secretariat of the Convention.

*Article 2*

The position to be taken on the Union's behalf in the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention shall be to support removing the wolf (*Canis lupus*) from Appendix II and adding it to Appendix III of the Convention.



## Latest developments (1)



- The Commission proposal needs to be agreed by a **qualified majority in the Council**: 55% of MS (at least 15 out of 27) representing at least 65% of EU population.
- Discussions on the proposal ongoing under the **Belgian presidency**. Meetings at technical level (Working Party on International Environment Issues) and at ambassadors level (COREPER).
- **No decision/vote yet.**



## Latest developments (2)

General issues on wolf/large carnivores discussed in:

- **European Parliament** (Envi Committee 24.1.2024; Intergroup on animal welfare 8.2.2024; Plenary 28.2.2024).
- **Agriculture Council** 23.01.2024 (Note from FI on large carnivores)
- **Environment Council** 25.03.2024 (Note from SK-RO on brown bear)
- **Committee of the Regions** 17.4.2024 Opinion on Biodiversity protection and coexistence with large carnivores in Europe



## Next steps (1)

- If adopted by **Council**, the EU will ask for an amendment of the Bern Convention at the next meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention (end 2024).
- Adoption by **Standing Committee** will require the agreement of **two thirds** of the contracting parties of the Convention (34/50).

## Next steps (2)

Regardless of the adoption of the proposal, we need to **continue working on coexistence**. This requires:

- **Prevention measures** and livestock protection
- Technical assistance and **advice** for livestock farmers
- **Compensatory payments** for **damages**
- **Information and communication**
- **Dialogue** with and involvement of all stakeholders
- Targeted use of **lethal control** to address specific issues
- Management of “**bold wolves**”
- **Monitoring** and data collection (on wolves, damages, prevention measures, problematic situations...)

## Next steps (3)

### Implementation of **new contract**:

- EU Platform for coexistence with large carnivores
- Regional platforms
- Data collection, studies and analysis
- Communication