



## EU proposal to adapt protection status of the wolf adopted by Bern Convention, paving the way to more flexibility in managing wolf populations

Brussels, 3 December 2024

Today, the Standing Committee of the [Bern Convention](#) voted in favour of the [EU proposal](#) to adapt the protection status of the wolf from 'strictly protected' to 'protected'. The change will enter into force on 7 March 2025. After this date, the EU will be able to adapt the corresponding annexes of the [Habitats Directive](#). The Commission will propose a targeted legislative amendment to this effect, which will need to be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council.

This change will give additional flexibility to Member States in managing their local wolf populations. At the same time, as the wolf will remain a protected species, Member States' conservation and management measures will still need to achieve and maintain favourable conservation status.

Investments in appropriate damage prevention measures remain essential to reduce livestock predation. The Commission will continue to help Member States and stakeholders in the design and implementation of such measures through funding and other forms of support.

### Background

On the basis of an [in-depth analysis on the status of the wolf in the EU](#), the Commission proposed in December 2023 to change the protection status of the wolf, which was then [adopted by the Council](#) in September 2024. The Commission proposal also corresponded to the position expressed by the European Parliament in November 2022.

### For More Information

[Commission proposal to change international status of wolves from 'strictly protected' to 'protected' based on new data on increased populations and impacts](#)

### Quote

European Commission President, Ursula **von der Leyen**, said: *"Important news for our rural communities and farmers. The Bern convention has decided to adjust the protection status of wolves. Because we need a balanced approach between the preservation of wildlife and the protection of our livelihoods."*

IP/24/6202

### Quote(s):

*"Important news for our rural communities and farmers. The Bern convention has decided to adjust the protection status of wolves. Because we need a balanced approach between the preservation of wildlife and the protection of our livelihoods."*  
Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission - 03/12/2024

*"EU's conservation policy and efforts towards the wolf have been a success in the past decades. The reality on the ground, however, is changing. Ever increasing wolf populations and the risk that this poses has justified to adapt the legal protection status of the wolf. Today, the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention voted in favour of the EU proposal to change the protection status of the wolf from 'strictly protected' to 'protected'. As a next step, we will propose to update EU's rules in line with this decision."*

Jessika Roswall, Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy - 03/12/2024

Press contacts:

[Anna-Kaisa ITKONEN](#) (+32 2 29 57501)

[Maëlys DREUX](#) (+32 2 29 54673)

General public inquiries: [Europe Direct](#) by phone [00 800 67 89 10 11](#) or by [email](#)