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European Green Party

Draft

Title: **Keep the wolf strictly protected! And make all member states respect its protection!**

Tabled by: Miljöpartiet de gröna

OVERVIEW AMENDMENTS

- AS ADOPTED - Keep the wolf strictly protected! And make all member states respect its protection!
- for CAS 9 - Consolidated text "Wolves" (8 December 8:30)
- Final PDF updated spreadsheets Wolves (7 December 23.59)
- Post CAS 4plus - PDF updated spreadsheet amendments Wolves (6 December 22:15)
- for CAS 2 - PDF updated spreadsheet amendments Wolves (3 December)
- PDF spreadsheet amendments Wolves (27 November)

Draft text

Due to its strict protection in the Habitats Directive, the wolf has been able to return and increase its populations in many member states. The return of the wolf to regions from which it had once been eradicated marks a significant conservation achievement.

However, wolf populations in the EU are still in unfavourable or inadequate conservation status in six out of seven biogeographical regions, according to the most recent assessments done under the Habitats Directive. The latest IUCN assessment shows that six out of nine transboundary wolf populations in the EU are vulnerable or near-threatened. Thus, the main objective of both the Bern Convention and the Habitats Directive – to ensure the restoration and conservation of endangered species – has not yet been reached, and there is no scientific basis to support an EU-wide weakening of the legal protection of the species.

Therefore, we want the Commission to cancel any plan for weakening the protection status of the wolf. And if the Commission puts forward proposals for such weakening, the Parliament and the Council of Ministers should reject such proposals.

For the sake of not only the wolf, but of all species and habitats protected by the EU legislation, it is also important and urgent that the Commission takes further steps to make all member states respect the legal protection of the wolf. Now, wolf hunting in Sweden has been an infringement case since 2010, and the Commission has sent reasoned opinions twice (!), most recently in 2015, clarifying that it is a violation of the Habitats Directive. Unless the Commission takes the case to the Court, there is major risk that other member states follow the bad example and set reference values of only a few hundred animals for wolves and other large carnivores, and then hunt the populations down so they become fragmented into small, isolated and vulnerable remnants.

This is not merely an issue about carnivores or the Habitats Directive. A reasoned opinion is supposed to be the last step before an infringement is taken to the Court. If the Commission fails to take the next step, it is a signal to all member states that they do not need to respect the EU environmental legislation. Hence, the continued inactivity of the Commission puts at severe risk the credibility of all EU environmental legislation, and, in fact, the credibility of EU legislation in general.

Therefore, the European Green Party:

- Calls on the Commission to cancel any plan for weakening the protection status of the wolf

- Calls on the Parliament and the Council of Ministers to reject any proposal for weakening the protection status of the wolf

- Calls on the Commission to take, without further delay, the infringement case regarding wolf hunting to the Court

Background

Text written by our member Torbjörn Nilsson.

Supporters

Verdes Equo