



Draft

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

Tabled by: Miljöpartiet de gröna

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Draft text

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

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

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

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

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

35 **Therefore, the European Green Party:**

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

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

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

Supporters

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