



For Immediate Release, 29.10.2024

**European Wolves targeted by Flawed Science presented by the European Commission.**

***The European Commission is requesting that the EU-27 member states and the Bern Convention remove the wolf from necessary legal protections based on inadequate scientific evidence.***

In an unprecedented move, EU states, under guidance from the European Commission, have requested the **Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats** to delist wolves from their current protection framework based on unverified, non-peer-reviewed data from a single report. This report, produced by a private consultancy funded by the European Commission, lacks rigorous scientific scrutiny. Notably, parts of the report indicate a need for increased, not decreased, protection for wolves.

Today, **four non-profit organizations** - Green Impact (Italy), Fertő tó Barátai Egyesület (Hungary), Nagy Tavak és Vizes Élőhelyek Szövetsége (Hungary), and the European Bioeconomy Bureau (Belgium) - **have written to Mr. Mikaël Poutiers, Secretary General of the Bern Convention, to request the removal of the EU proposal to delist wolves** from the December agenda of the Convention's Standing Committee. **This request is grounded in the proposal's inconsistencies.**

As is evident in the European Commission's submission<sup>1</sup> to the Standing Committee, the proposed delisting of wolves lacks adequate substantiation. The only new information presented is a 2023 report titled 'The Situation of the Wolf (*Canis lupus*) in the EU<sup>2</sup>' - which, as of now, does not meet the Convention's rigorous quality standards nor those upheld by the scientific community.

**The EU proposal prepared by the European Commission is inadmissible**, noting that it relies on unsupported statements rather than evidence-based analyses and includes significant data gaps and questionable data interpretations.

**Two scientific statements, endorsed by numerous high-level experts, are forthcoming in the next few days to clarify the solid scientific evidence** supporting wolf conservation and to advocate for maintaining the current legal protection framework.

*The European Commission attempt to delist wolves set a dangerous precedent, it disregards well-established science and poses a significant threat to Europe's valuable species and habitats, which the EU has worked to conserve and restore over recent decades with full support of the majority of EU citizens. Such action contradicts urgent priorities like reversing biodiversity loss and addressing climate change, the most critical environmental challenges humanity faces - highlighted*

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/inf15e-2024-submission-on-behalf-of-the-european-union-of-a-proposal-f/1680b1e94e>

<sup>2</sup> <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/5d017e4e-9efc-11ee-b164-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

the 4 organisations - *it is now essential that the Bern Convention responds by deferring any decision on wolf protection until a more robust, reliable scientific foundation is available.*

[Read the Secretary General Bern Convention Open Letter](#)

**Contacts:**

Gaia Angelini      [gaia.angelini@greenimpact.it](mailto:gaia.angelini@greenimpact.it)      M: +39 3480586408

Zoltan Kun      [zoltankun71@yahoo.com](mailto:zoltankun71@yahoo.com)      M: +36 203606886