



MEDIA REACTIVE - WOLF PROTECTION VOTE

Brussels, 3rd December 2024 - Commenting on today's vote at the Bern Convention meeting, **Gaia Angelini, President of Green Impact, said:**

“Shame on the EU for forcing through a proposal to downlist wolf protection despite Bosnia proposing a postponement of the vote to next year. President of the European Commission Von der Leyen started this ‘saga’ in her previous mandate - disregarding both science and democracy. The EU has lost its credibility at international level by promoting the killing of a species the scientific community wants protected.

But we will continue to engage and, together with other organisations, we are preparing a legal appeal to the European Court of Justice to seek the annulment of the Council's decision on downlisting of wolves.”

The EU proposal to downlist the wolf is an additional move on a worrying anti democratic path that [aims at weakening environmental advocacy](#) in Europe.

If Green Impact's legal appeal to the European Court of Justice is accepted, wolves will remain strictly protected and this will have a direct impact on the Bern Convention as well.

“It is time to move beyond an obsolete regulatory framework designed in the 1970s and 1980s. What we need in 2025 is an in-depth reform of the Habitats Directive based not on quantitative targets, but on ecosystem restoration, focusing on limiting human impact and promoting the flourishing of nature and wildlife – a crucial tool for climate mitigation,” said Angelini.

Bosnia had proposed a postponement of the vote to next year but this was opposed by the EU and therefore rejected (because the EU represents at least 1/3 of Member States, having a number of votes equal to the number of its Member States which are Contracting Parties to this Convention i.e. 27).

5 countries voted against the EU proposal to downlist (UK, Monaco, Montenegro, Bosnia, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina), while 2 abstained (Tunisia, Turkey).

A Working Group was established to discuss changes to be made for downlisting the wolf from Appendix II to III. This will be discussed tomorrow afternoon (4 December).

The downlisting will enter into force unless 17 Member States object within the next 3 months (as per Article 17.3 of the Bern Convention).

In the past weeks, [over 600 scientists and academics have signed](#) two scientific statements about wolf conservation and the role of wolves in ecosystem recovery, explaining why there is no science behind the proposal to downlist wolves, and urging the Bern Convention not to weaken the current wolf protection scheme.END

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