



LNDC Animal Protection and Green Impact: "The wolf must be defended, not downgraded. Our appeal to the European Court of Justice has been published in the Official Journal."

The associations LNDC Animal Protection and Green Impact, together with Earth ODV, One Voice (France), and Great Lakes (Hungary), have filed an appeal with the Court of Justice of the European Union to request the annulment of the downgrading of the wolf decided in June by the EU. The appeal has finally been published in the Official Journal, and now the Court will have to rule on the matter.

The **wolf (Canis lupus)** is a key species for the health of European ecosystems: it regulates wild ungulate populations, promotes natural forest regeneration, and contributes to climate change mitigation. It is, to all intents and purposes, a **common good of all European citizens**, protected by EU law and a symbol of the balance between humans and nature.

Despite this, last June the EU decided to **downgrade the level of protection for wolves**, undermining decades of conservation policies and paving the way for more permissive management, including culling. This decision ignores solid scientific evidence and instead responds to political pressure and partisan interests.

For this reason, **LNDC Animal Protection, Green Impact, Earth ODV, France's One Voice, and Hungary's Great Lakes** have filed an **appeal with the Court of Justice of the European Union** (case T-563/25), now [published in the Official Journal of the European Union](#), to request the annulment of this decision. This is the second step in a **legal battle** that began with the previous appeal (case T-634/24) against the downgrading under the Bern Convention.

*"Our goal," explain **Green Impact** and **LNDC Animal Protection**, "is to defend not only the wolf, but also the credibility of European law and the precautionary principle, which requires that every decision be based on independent scientific data and not on economic or political interests. At the moment, however, it seems that the European political class prefers to believe in the fairy tale of Little Red Riding Hood and the big bad wolf rather than science."*

The Italian wolf (*Canis lupus italicus*), a subspecies unique in the world, is an authentic **genetic heritage 'made in Italy'**, now threatened by short-sighted policies and misinformation campaigns that fuel unfounded fears. More than half of Europe's wolf populations are still **vulnerable or at risk of extinction** (IUCN, 2023), and in many countries, **poaching, poisoning, and road accidents** remain dramatically widespread.

At the same time, millions of euros are spent each year on subsidies and compensation for damage caused by wildlife (wild boars, fallow deer, and other ungulates), which are the wolf's natural prey. Instead, it would be sufficient to allow wolves to perform their natural function as **natural regulators of ecosystems** to prevent this damage, while at the same time applying the correct and appropriate measures to prevent them from preying on livestock. Coexistence is possible – and necessary – only by promoting knowledge, prevention, and responsibility, not with guns.



The associations are therefore asking the **Italian government not to implement the downgrading in national legislation**, pending the decision of the Court of Justice, not least because European legislation allows for the strict protection of wolves to be maintained until **January 2027**.

"Defending the wolf," conclude LNDC Animal Protection and Green Impact, "means defending science, nature, and the future of our planet. We cannot allow a species that symbolizes natural balance to continue to be a victim of ignorance and fear."

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