

REFERENCES (WOLF Press Release, 26.03.2026)

Content:

- Appeals before the EU Court of Justice to annul downlisting;
- Scientists Declarations against EU downlisting;
- Mortality of wolves;
- Citizens' Surveys;
- Key EU Court of Justice Cases about wolves and Habitats Directive;
- EU subsidies to fund preventive and compensatory measures associated to predations;
- Literature and Reports.

THREE NGO LEGAL APPEALS BEFORE THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE TO ANNUL THE EU DOWNLISTING

Two legal NGO Appeals before the European Court of Justice (Case [T-563/25](#); Case [T-634/24](#)) to annul the downlisting of wolf submitted by Green Impact and Others. A third legal Appeal to the EUCJ ([T-634/25](#)): [Case T-634/25: Action brought on 16 September 2025 – GzSdW v Parliament and Others](#);

SCIENTIST DECLARATIONS AGAINST EU DOWNLISTING

- 2024; [IUCN](#) (downlisting is not based on science)
- 2024; [IUCN/SSC-Large Carnivore Initiative](#) (downlisting is not based on science)
- 2024; [700 signatures of Scientists](#) (downlisting is not based on science)
- [2000 Signatures of Scientists pro-Green Deal and to maintain the Habitats Directive](#).

MORTALITY OF WOLVES

Smith, J.A., López-Bao, J.V., Chapron, G. (2025). *Patterns and determinants of mortality in grey wolves (Canis lupus): a global review*. **Mammal Review**.

Zimmermann, B., Wabakken, P., Sand, H., et al. (2025). *Map of death: spatially explicit mortality of the grey wolf*. **Proceedings of the Royal Society B**.

EBD-CSIC Research Group (2025). *Human persecution as the main cause of wolf mortality: a global meta-analysis of 140 studies*. **Estación Biológica de Doñana (CSIC)**.

Wielgus, R.B., Peebles, K.A. (2014). *Effects of wolf mortality on livestock depredations*. **PLOS ONE**, 9(12): e113505.

Erb, J., Sampson, B., Mech, L.D. (2025). *Human-caused wolf mortality persists for years after hunting stops*. **Nature**.

LCIE (2022). *Assessment of wolf mortality and conflict hotspots in Europe*. **Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe / IUCN**.

European Commission (2023). *Status, threats and management of the wolf in the EU: Technical background document.*

Io Non Ho Paura del Lupo (2023). *Report annuale sulla mortalità del lupo in Italia e sulle interazioni con le attività umane.* Associazione Io Non Ho Paura del Lupo.(Italy).

Alessandrini C., Piccirilli A., Ecotti D., Romito F. (2025). *I am not afraid of the wolf APS, 27 November (2025)* [Wolf \(Canis lupus\) mortality in Italy in the period 2019–2023.](#)

Eurogroup for Animals (2024). *Wolf mortality, coexistence and policy gaps in the European Union.* Bruxelles.

TRAFFIC (2021). *Illegal killing, poisoning and trade of wolves in Europe: A situational analysis.* TRAFFIC & IUCN SSC.

WWF (2020). *Living with Wolves: Human-wolf coexistence and mortality factors in Europe.* WWF International.

Comando Unità Forestali, Ambientali e Agroalimentari (CUFAA) (2021). *Rapporto annuale sul bracconaggio e sugli avvelenamenti della fauna selvatica in Italia.* Ministero dell'Ambiente.

LIFE WolfAlps EU (2023). *Wolf mortality, conflict mitigation and population monitoring in the Alpine region.* Progetto LIFE18 NAT/IT/000972.

ISPRA (2022). *Linee guida per la gestione del lupo in Italia e analisi delle principali cause di mortalità.* Rapporto tecnico ISPRA.

Tomma, G. (2024, January 24). Plan to allow wolf hunting in Europe to spare livestock could backfire, some scientists say. Science News. Retrieved from: <https://www.science.org/content/article/plan-allow-wolf-hunting-europe-protectlivestock-could-backfire-some-scientists-say>

SOME CITIZEN SURVEYS

2020 | FR, DE, IT, ES, PL, FI | Eurogroup for Animals / Savanta ComRes | Opinion poll | Strong majority supports strict protection; opposition to killing | <http://www.comresglobal.com/polls/eurogroup-for-animals-wolf-protection-research/> ; <https://www.lav.it/news/sondaggio-eurogroup-for-animals-lupo-2020>

2023 | Germany (rural areas) | Tierschutzbund + HSI Europe | National survey (rural focus) | Rural populations support wolf protection; low fear; rejection of widespread culling | <https://www.tierschutzbund.de/news/umfrage-landbevoelkerung-wolfsschutz-2023> ; <https://www.hsi.org/news-media/umfrage-landbevoelkerung-wolfsschutz-2023/>

2023 | EU-wide | European Commission | In-depth analysis | Public attitudes increasingly favourable to wolves | https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/in-depth-analysis-wolf-eu-2023-12-21_en ; <https://policycommons.net/artifacts/pc86ch4>

2024 | France | Ipsos for One Voice | National opinion poll | Majority does not fear wolves; sees them as important for biodiversity; rejects killing | <https://one-voice.fr/en/blog/survey-on-french-opinion-on-wolves-2024/>

2020 | France | Fondation Droit Animal (LFDA) | National opinion poll | 84% support strict protection of the wolf | <https://fondation-droit-animal.org/sondage-protection-loup-2020/>

2019–2023 | Germany | BfN (Naturbewusstsein) | National nature awareness surveys | Stable acceptance of wolves; high ecological value attributed | <https://www.bfn.de/publikationen/naturbewusstsein-2023> ; <https://www.bmu.de/publikation/naturbewusstsein-2019>

Various years | German Länder | Regional authorities | Regional surveys | Support for coexistence; low fear; preference for non-lethal measures | [\(links vary by Land\)](#)

2014–2023 | Sweden | Naturvårdsverket (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency) | National attitudes surveys | Majority supports having wolves in Sweden; regional variation in acceptance | <https://www.naturvardsverket.se> (specific survey links available by year)

2015–2023 | Finland | Luke (Natural Resources Institute Finland) | National attitudes surveys | Majority supports coexistence; fear decreasing over time | <https://www.luke.fi>

2017–2022 | Norway | Norwegian Environment Agency | National survey on large carnivores | National majority supports maintaining a wolf population; regional differences | <https://www.miljodirektoratet.no>

Various years | Spain (Castilla y León, Asturias, Galicia) | Regional governments / research institutes | Regional surveys | Support for coexistence with strong regional differences | [Links vary by region](#)

Various years | Portugal | ICNF (Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas) | National and regional surveys | High acceptance of wolves; strong support for conservation | <https://www.icnf.pt>

2014–2023 | Slovenia | University of Ljubljana / LIFE projects | National attitudes surveys | Strong support for coexistence; high trust in scientific management | <https://www.lifewolfalps.eu>

2014–2023 | Croatia | University of Zagreb / LIFE projects | National survey | Majority supports wolf conservation; acceptance higher in non-rural areas | <https://www.lifewolfalps.eu>

Various years | Romania | WWF Romania / LIFE projects | National and regional surveys | High acceptance of wolves; strong cultural tolerance | <https://wwf.ro>

Various years | Bulgaria | BALKANI Wildlife Society | National survey | Majority supports wolf presence; low fear | <https://balkani.org>

KEY EU COURT OF JUSTICE: SOME CASES ABOUT WOLVES AND HABITATS DIRECTIVE;

Wolf cases (Spain, Austria, Estonia) on in its 2024 judgments on the cases (C601/22; C436/22; C-629/23); vs Austria and Spain and Estonia, the European Court of Justice confirmed the need to maintain strict protection in that countries and that the need to ensure a favorable conservation status of the wolf prevails over socio-economic considerations; furthermore, the wolf cannot be designated as a huntable species at regional level when its conservation status at national level is unfavorable; Ecological standards flowing from the Directive's Favorable Conservation Status definition are non-negotiable and may not be adjusted for reasons of social and economic conflicts. Arie Trouwborst (2026), "Favourable conservation status: EU Court clarifies crucial yardstick for wildlife preservation and restoration in wave of wolf cases", RECIEL. Link : <https://lnkd.in/dc-7MQRC>

EU SUBSIDIES TO FUND PREVENTION AND COMPENSATION ASSOCIATED TO PREDATION

Systems to prevent predation by wolves work and are subsidised (CAP/ FEARS; LIFE+) in Europe with tens of millions of euros per year, with EU funds as part of the 'coexistence' policy, but they are rarely used by the agricultural world, which prefers to generate alarmism by crying 'wolf'. Examples, among many:

- (Italy) Piedmont Region, second half of 2025, financial allocation +500,000 euros

- (Spain) Asturias – Ayudas PDR 2024 wolf damage prevention; year 2024, **100% EU Funds (EAFRD); € 1.200.000**
<https://www.asturias.es/portal/site/webasturias/menuitem>
- **France – Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (AURA), 2024 EU funding (FEADER):** €3.5 million. This is the amount allocated in 2024 for wolf-damage prevention measures (fences, dogs, enclosures) under the regional FEADER envelope.
- (Sweden) Västra Götaland, **EU funding (EAFRD): €1.05 million** This is the 2024 allocation for predator-detering fences under the Swedish Rural Development Programme.

LITERATURE AND REPORTS

- LIFE WolfAlps EU & Alpine Convention – “common agricultural policy (cap) and prevention of damages caused by large carnivores” (april 2024)
- In 2020, cattle and sheep production received €8 billion of EU subsidies through CAP (Common Agriculture Policy). The meat and dairy sectors together benefited from around 39 billion euros (77 percent of CAP funds and 23 percent of the entire EU budget for 2020)
Source: <https://www.eunews.it/en/2026/02/19/cap-funding-meat-vegetables-foodrise/>
- Randi, E., Jansman, H., Kusak, J., Pacifici, M., Piovesan, G., Saarma, U., Schmidt, K., & Werhahn, G. (2025). *Restore strict protection for wolves in Europe*. **Science** 390(6772), 452–453
- 2025. Appeal by associations to the European Court of Justice for the annulment of the downgrading of the wolf decided by the EU
- 2024. Appeal by associations to the European Court of Justice for the annulment of the downgrading of the wolf to the Bern Convention promoted by the EUCouncil
- 2025 Appeal by associations at the EUCJ: Case T-634/25: Action brought on 16 September 2025 – GzSdW v Parliament and Others
- Tomma, G. (2024, January 24). *Plan to allow wolf hunting in Europe to spare livestock could backfire, some scientists say*. Science News. Retrieved from: <https://www.science.org/content/article/plan-allow-wolf-hunting-europe-protectlivestock-could-backfire-some-scientists-say>
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- Thomas D. Gable, Sean M. Johnson-Bice, Austin T. Homkes, John Fieberg, Joseph K. Bump; Wolves alter the trajectory of forests by shaping the central place foraging behaviour of an ecosystem engineer. *Proc Biol Sci* 1 November 2023; 290 (2010):20231377.

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- LCI/ IUCN SSC specialist group, [Statement on the proposed downlisting of the wolf under the Bern Convention and the EU Habitats Directive](#).
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- Chiarucci, Alessandro (2022). [The importance](#) of baseline data for quantifying and monitoring biodiversity
- Thomas D. Gable, Sean M. Johnson-Bice, Austin T. Homkes, John Fieberg, Joseph K. Bump; [Wolves alter the trajectory of forests by shaping the central place foraging behaviour of an ecosystem engineer](#). *Proc Biol Sci* 1 November 2023; 290 (2010):20231377
- *Assessing key demographic parameters and viability of a wolf population in a highly human-dominated landscape*, *Biological Conservation* 316 (2026) 111784. Monia ´ Nakamura, Pedro Monterroso, Helena Rio-Maior, Raquel Godinho, Francisco Alvares ´, Jos e Vicente Lopez-Bao ´ , Olivier Gimenez.
- 2024 - LIFE WolfAlps EU & Alpine Convention: common agricultural policy (cap) and prevention of damages caused by large carnivores” (April 2024) .

- 2026 - EU CAP subsidies overwhelmingly favor meat and dairy over plant-based crops, Foodrise study finds - In 2020, cattle and sheep production received €8 billions of EU subsidies through CAP (Common Agriculture Policy). The meat and dairy sectors together benefited from around 39 billions euros (77 percent of CAP funds and 23 percent of the entire EU budget for 2020) Source: <https://www.eunews.it/en/2026/02/19/cap-funding-meat-vegetables-foodrise/>
- 2025 - [Deeply Political and Populist Decisions on Large Carnivores in Europe in Recent Times](https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.13125) - Conservation Letters., 18: e13125
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