



## "The European Union of Breeders" for the lowering protection status of wolves

Ladies and gentlemen,

The report is without appeal, for 30 years the policy of management of wolves in connection with the activities of breeding, is a failure!

Consequently, the "European Breeders' Union" is sending the European Commission and the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention a request for the declassification of the wolf from Appendix IV of the Habitats Directive and from Appendix II of the Bern Convention. We warn of a catastrophic situation that has become uncontrollable and unacceptable.

Not a country is spared, anger and desolation invade all the massifs like the plains, powerless in the face of this aberration which consists in overprotecting the large predators, much stronger than Man if the latter is not armed!

The impossible cohabitation demonstrated by historical facts, both on humans and on farm animals, should have initiated a reflection before any decision of overprotection favoring the multiplication of large predators, moreover in anthropized spaces.

The desire to make our territories wild is obvious, as is the lack of listening. It is rare to see such blindness towards an entire section of society, which is also essentially responsible for feeding the population.

To impose wolves in the name of biodiversity is to omit that a richer biodiversity is generated by grazing by maintaining the grasslands. The proof is that the policy of the "Green deal" of the European Union in the Common Agricultural Policy, aims to maintain these grasslands as a priority, for environmental objectives, which is diametrically opposed to the choices of overprotection of large carnivores.

Imposing wolves is also refusing to recognize that biodiversity is doing very well in territories where they are absent. By the Commission's own admission, pastoral environments are a conservation priority – the red list of habitats <sup>7</sup> is proof of this.

Claiming that wolves regulate ungulate populations is a decoy in farming areas where it is easier for them to attack domestic animals than wild prey. The regulation of wild ungulates when it is effective due to a lack of farm animals leads to the virtual disappearance of certain species (mouflons, roe deer, chamois, etc.) resulting in a cruel loss of biodiversity. While other means without consequences for breeding are available for the regulation of ungulates.

Highlighting, as it is written in the LCIE evaluation report <sup>1</sup>, that the risk of hybridization is major and at the same time developing a policy of cohabitation through the multiplication of guard dogs, are two practices antagonists as the crosses between dog and wolf are inevitable.

The European Commissioner for the Environment rejects lowering the protection of wolves <sup>2</sup>, on the pretext that the States would have sufficient leeway to guarantee at the same time the conservation of large carnivores and the maintenance of sustainable agricultural practices. The facts show us that in all countries colonized by large predators, agricultural practices are in danger, and if the States really had this possibility of derogating from the overprotection of wolves, why then refuse the downgrading in the texts?

Overprotection inevitably led to a change in the behavior of *canis lupus*, causing it to lose fear of humans. Fear which would have preserved their truly wild character and greatly limited predation on domestic animals. This absence of fear has played a negative role by devaluing the means of protection whose effectiveness has only a relative duration, which corresponds to the time of adaptation by the wolves.

A study by INRAE <sup>3</sup>, a French agronomy organization, reveals that 90% of herds attacked in the French Alps are protected herds.

The protection of cattle and horse herds is not possible, that of sheep and goats limits predation, but the protection models imposed are not sufficient, the facts are there, it is a bitter failure.

These means of protection, which generate huge costs for the States and breeders, become a problem in the sharing of uses of nature, mainly by the multiplication of guard dogs.

All the proposals to test new means of protection and finance ever more numerous and ever more expensive studies are only a waste of money and time, it has been going on for 30 years!

All the funds paid to the Life program to study wolves bring no answer, it would be good for the Court of Auditors to look into this financial waste for the benefit of wolves who do not need any help to multiply and disperse in all territories.

The victims are more and more numerous every year, and this in sufferings and atrocities legalized by this overprotection thus making disappear any notion of animal well-being.

Will we have to wait for everyone in the Commission to be personally affected to understand this, as was the case for President Mrs. Von Der Leyen who today mourns her pony killed by wolves?

By proposing to reject the request made by Switzerland, the Council of the Union remains insensitive to the dramas that unfold every day. Its main argument for this rejection is that the downgrading would not be scientifically justified<sup>4</sup>, whereas the LCIE<sup>123</sup> specifies in its assessment report that the conservation status of wolves in Europe is undeniably positive. The Council's argument is therefore inadmissible!

In addition, the LCIE<sup>1 report</sup> of 2022, on which the Council must base itself to give its orientation, presents maps based on data from 2016 when the growth of wolf populations reaches 30% per year in certain regions of Europe. !

Many citizens' petitions, as well as the initiative of the MEPs of the Committee on Agriculture<sup>4</sup> for the downgrading are ignored by the committee.

Worse still, the committee continues to disregard **the resolution adopted by MEPs<sup>5</sup> on May 3, 2018**, by a large majority, 81.91%, for a revision of the predator protection statute. And it is still unaware **of the resolution adopted by the European Parliament this Thursday, November 24, 2022** concerning the protection of farms.

By ostensibly ignoring the realities on the ground, the permanent authoritarianism of the European Commission reinforces a growing Euroscepticism.

**For all these reasons , we are dismayed by the decision taken today in Strasbourg within the Bern Convention to reject Switzerland's request to lower the level of protection for wolves .** This in no way diminishes our determination for this request for downgrading. While being aware that this change, when it occurs, must be accompanied by each Member State of concrete measures with the aim of a considerable reduction in predation on domestic animals.

In the name of biodiversity and environmental preservation,

In the name of the future of free-range breeding and all the culture and know-how that surrounds it,

In the name of the landscapes we love, shaped by millennia of grazing,

In the name of the right of everyone to walk without fear in the countryside,

In the name of maintaining a social and economic fabric in rural areas,

In the name of respect for those who live and suffer on the front line against large predators,

In the name of animal welfare and quality food,

We ask you after having listened **to us, to hear us and to react .**

On November 29, 2022,

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<sup>1</sup> LCIE report: [https://lciepub.nina.no/pdf/638036032684557257\\_LCIE%20CoE%20Wolf%20status%20report%202022.pdf](https://lciepub.nina.no/pdf/638036032684557257_LCIE%20CoE%20Wolf%20status%20report%202022.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.euractiv.fr/section/agriculture-alimentation/news/la-commission-defend-son-approche-pour-la-protection-des-grands-carnivores-face-aux-plaintes-des-etats-membres/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.inrae.fr/actualites/loup-elevage-bilan-27-ans-coexistence>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.agra.fr/agra-europe/loups-initiative-en-solitaire-au-parlement-europeen-pour-assouplir-les-regles-de-protection>

<sup>5</sup> Council of Europe letter: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022PC0543&from=EN>

<sup>6</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52018IP0203&from=EN>

<sup>7</sup> [https://tourduvalat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/rdb\\_press\\_release\\_16jan2017.pdf](https://tourduvalat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/rdb_press_release_16jan2017.pdf)


The Signatories :

MOTION " L'union européenne des éleveurs" pour l'abaissement du statut de protection des loups Mardi 29 novembre 2022 à Saint Jean de Bournay (38)

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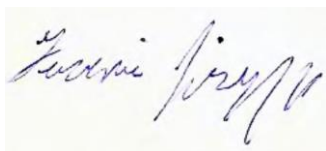
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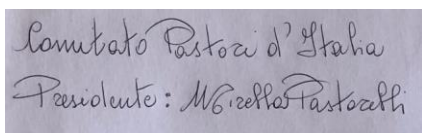
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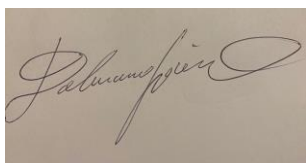
Giuseppe Ferrari, presidente APAC  
Alleanza dei Pastori Aurunci e Ciociari  
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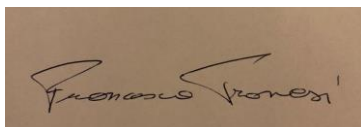
Gintare Kisieliene, Head of the  
Lithuanian Sheep Breeders Association



Mirella Pastorelli, presidente Comitato Pastori d'Italia



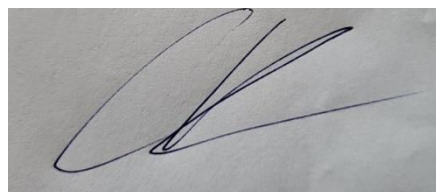
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