

SIGN ON SHEET FOR OPEN LETTER regarding upcoming decision on potential modification of the protection status of the wolf

THANK FOR OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR THIS. WE'VE TAKEN IT OFFLINE NOW FOR LAYOUT AND WILL SEND THE LETTER TO VON DER LEYEN ON MONDAY MORNING 18/12. I WILL EMAIL YOU THE FINAL LETTER TO THE EMAIL ADDRESS INCLUDED IN THE TABLE.

WE EXPECT PUBLICATION OF EC PROPOSAL ON THIS ON 20/12, BUT STILL NO CONFIRMED INFO WHAT EXACTLY IT WOULD BE.

FOR ANY LAST MINUTE REQUEST, PLEASE SHOUT @ SERGIY.MOROZ@EEB.ORG

MANY THANKS

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5	Federazione Nazionale Pro Natura		National NGO, Italy	12/12	Piero Belletti (General Secretary) segretario@pro-natura.it
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26	Verein CHWOLF		Switzerland NGO	12.12.	info@chwolf.org
27	Dierencoalitie		Platform of 17 NGO's	12/12	s.beuving@dierencoalitie.nl
28	IG Wild beim Wild		NGO in Switzerland	12.12.	Carl Sonenthal info@wildbeimwild.com
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39	Kemeru National Park Fund		National NGO LATVIA	12/12	fonds@kemerunacionalaisparks.lv
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41	Animal Cross		NGO in France	12.12	pasourdin@gmail.com P. Sourdin, referent for wolves
42	International Otter Survival Fund		International NGO in Scotland, UK	12.12	Grace@otter.org
43	The European Nature Trust		UK-registered NGO	12/12	Jacob Dykes, Conservation Manager, jacob@theeuropean-naturetrust.com
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46	PPP-Movement http://ppp-movement.org		CH-based movement	12/12	Christine Bürki, founder chris@chrisbuerki-consulting.net
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48	Udruga Prizma		Croatian Youth NGO	12/12	Luana Matosevic, project coordinator luana@udrugaprima.hr
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54	Tierschutz Austria	 TIERSCHUTZ AUSTRIA © Wiener Tierschutzverein	National NGO	12/12	Jonas von Einem, Spokesman jonas.voneinem@tierschutz-austria.at
55	NOAH - for animal rights		National NGO, Norway	12/12	register@dyrsrettigheter.no
56	Natuurpunt		Regional NGO, Flanders, Belgium	12/12	Diemer Vercayie, policy officer, diemer.vercayie@natuurpunt.be
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68	Earth Action, Inc.		Regional NGO, United States	12/1	
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74	EDEN center		National NGO, Albania	12/12	ermelinda.mahmutaji@eden-al.org

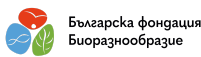
75	European Alliance for Wolf Conservation		EU network	12/12	Enrique Perez - EAWC Europe <eawc.europe@gmail.com>
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78	Stowarzyszenie dla Natury "Wilk"		National NGO Poland	12/12	Dr. Sabina Nowak sabina.pieruzeknowak@gmail.com
79	Balkani Wildlife Society		National NGO Bulgaria	12/12	Elena Tsingarska-Sedefcheva elena@balkani.org
80	RENTAS International		EU - NGO Switzerland	12/12	Thiago Vargas info@rencitasinternational.org

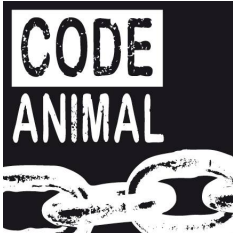
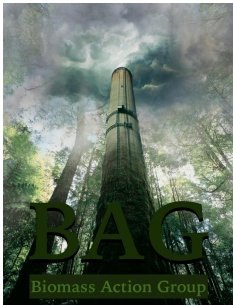
81	RENTAS		NGO Brazil		Dener Giovanini dg@rencatas.org.br
82	Nature Nova Scotia		NGO Canada	12/12	Bob Bancroft wild1@eastlink.ca
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113	Pôle Grands Prédateurs		France	13.12	Ghislaine LETOURNEUR ghislaine.letourneur@gmail.com
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123	Naturwald Akademie		German NPO	13/12/2023	luebeck@naturwald-akademie.org
124	Biomass Action Group (BAG)		Australia	13/12/23	earthmama007@yahoo.com

125	AEGEAN WILDLIFE HOSPITAL		Greece	13/12/23	alkioniparos@yahoo.gr
126	Global White Lion Protection Trust		South Africa	13/12/23	communications@whitelions.org
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135	Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature - HSPN		GREECE, National NGO	13/12/2023	mgletsos@eepf.gr
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137	Lesoochránárske zoskupenie VLK (WOLF Forest Protection Movement)		Slovakia National NGO	13/12/2023	alfa@wolf.sk
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143	Trees for Life	Trees for Life	NGO, UK	13/12/2023	darren@treesforlife.org.uk
144	BOS+		NGO, Belgium	13/12/2023	pieter.vandesype@bosplus.be
145	Rewilding France		NGO, France		Catherine ANDRE candre@rewildingfrance.org
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153	Děti Země (Children of the Earth)		National NGO Czech republic	13/12/2023	Miroslav Patrik (chairman), deti.zeme@ecn.cz
154	Ecological Recycling Society		National Greek NGO	13/12/2023	Kyrkitsos Filippou phkirk@otenet.gr
155	African Conservation Foundation		NGO, United Kingdom		info@africanconservation.org
156	European Wilderness Society		NGO, Europe	13/12/2023	Info@wilderness-society.org

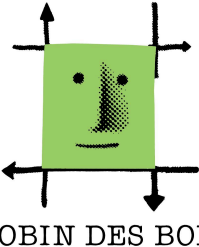
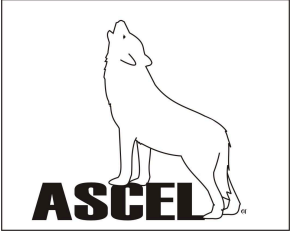
157	Ecological Alliance		Association Greece	13/12/2023	contact@oikologiki-symmaxia.gr
158	Save Wild		Association Greece	13/12/2023	info@savewild.gr
159	ROH - Citizens for the Rivers		Association Greece	13/12/2023	info@remata.gr
160	Alpe Adria Green Slovenia		NGO, international	13/12/2023	Vojko Bernard (president AAG) info@alpeadriagreen.com
161	Sea First Foundation		NGO Netherlands and Belgium	13/12/2023	
162	Calla - Sdružení pro záchranu prostředí, z.s.		NGO Czech Republic	13/12/2023	Romana Panská chairwoman calla@calla.cz romana.panska@calla.cz
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164	Société nationale de protection de la nature (SNPN, France)		National NGO, France	13/12/2023	remi.luglia@snpn.fr

165	C'est Assez!		National NGO France	13/12/2023	cggrandjean52@hotmail.com cest.assez.collectif@gmail.com
166	Protect ■ Natur-, Arten- und Landschaftsschutz e.V.		National NGO Germany	13/12/2023	protect-nature@posteo.de
167	Zveza ekoloških gibanj Slovenije-ZEG		National NGO Slovenia	13/12/2023	Karel Lipič zegslo20@gmail.com
168	Asociación Animalista Libera!		NGO, International	13/12/2023	libera@liberaong.org
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170	APS Amici dei Parchi di Monteveglio e dell'Emilia		Local NGO Valsamoggia Italy	13.12.2023	Dr. Salvatore Caiazzo President amiciparcomonteveglio@gmail.com
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172	The Wolf Conservation Association		Association Belgium	13/12/2023	world.of.wolves@wolf-center.eu

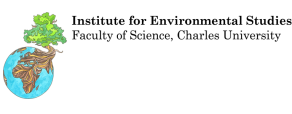
173	ASPAS, Association pour la protection des animaux sauvages		NGO France	13/12/2023	Marc Giraud Porte-parole mgiraud.nature@wanadoo.fr
174	WildChoices		NPC South Africa	14.12.2023	Brett Mitchell, Director, brett@wildchoices.org
175	Elephant Reintegration Trust		Trust South Africa	14.12.2023	Brett Mitchell, Chair, brett@elephantreintegrationtrust.co.za
176	Naturschutzbund Österreich		National NGO, Austria	14/12/2023	Thomas Wrbka, president bundesverband@naturschutzbund.at
177	Eliante		Non profit company	14/12/2023	Mauro Belardi, President, belardi@eliante.it
178	Gesellschaft zum Schutz der Wölfe e.V.		NGO Germany	14/12/2023	Nicole Kronauer , Chair Nicole.Kronauer@gsdwd.de

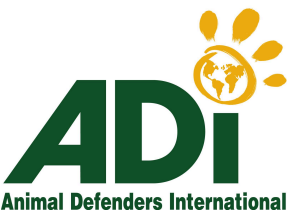
179	MOm/Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal		NGO GREECE	14/12/23	Panagiotis DENDRINOS President p.dendrinos@mom.gr
180	Anima Helvetia		NGO Switzerland	14/12/23	Andreas Sommer, info@animahelvetia.ch
181	Drasi gia tin agria zoi / Action for Wildlife		NGO GREECE	14/12/23	Sophia Prousali, President mail@drasi-agriazoi.gr
182	Avenir Loup Lynx Jura		NGO, Switzerland	14/12/23	Yves Bongard, secretariat@louplynxjura.org
183	Romanian Ornithological Society		NGO Romania	14.12.2023	Alida Barbu alida.barbu@sor.ro
184	David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation		NGO, UK	14.12.2023	Lawrence Avery, lawrence.avery@davidsshepherd.org

185	Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds	 Bulgarian Society for THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS	NGO, Bulgaria	14.12.2 023	Vanya Ratarova, vanya.ratarova@bs pb.org
186	Society for the Protection of Prespa	SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF PRESPA 	Regional NGO, Greece	14/12/2 023	Vivi Roumeliotou v.roumeliotou@spp. gr
187	Milvoz - Associação de Protecção e Conservação da Natureza		Regional NGO, Portugal	14/12/2 023	geral@milvoz.pt
188	Biofuelwatch	 biofuelwatch	NGO, UK/USA	14/12/2 023	Almuth Ernsting, biofuelwatch@gmai l.com
189	MedINA	 MedINA	NGO, Greece	14/12/2 023	alexis@med-ina.org
190	SCOTLAND: The Big Picture	 SCOTLAND THE BIG PICTURE	NGO, UK	14/12/2 023	peter@scotlandbig picture.com
191	DOF BirdLife	 Dansk Ornitologisk Forening BirdLife DANMARK	National NGO	14/12/2 023	knud.flensted@dof. dk

192	o.z. Karpatská divočina		NGO Slovakia	14.12.2023	Peter Drengubiak karpatska.divocina@gmail.com
193	Society for Sustainable Living (STUŽ)		NGO Czech Republic	14.12.2023	info@stuz.cz
194	Robin des Bois		National NGO, France	14.12.2023	c.nithart@robindexbois.org
195	ASCEL Association for Gray Wolf Conservation and Study in Spain		NGO Spain	14/12/2023	Executive Board of the NGO ascel@loboiberico.com
196	Greenpeace Greece		International NGO, Greece	14/12/2023	amessare@greenpeace.org
197	My sme les		Citizen Initiative, Slovakia	14/12/2023	Ondrej Kameniar, ondrej@mysmeles.sk
198	Dier&Recht		National NGO, The Netherlands	14/12/2023	erik@dierenrecht.nl

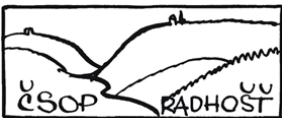
199	PETA Deutschland		National NGO	14.12.2 3	peterh@peta.de
200	PETA Schweiz		National NGO	14.12.2 3	peterh@peta.de
201	Friends of Fertő Lake Association		NGO, Hungary	14/12/2 023	Zoltan Kun, Secretary save.ferto.lake@gmail.com
202	Great Lakes & Wetlands Association		NGO, Hungary	14/12/2 023	Zoltan Kun, president nagytavakkoalicio
203	Umweltdachverband		national NGO	14/12/2 023	franziska.werba@umweltdachverband.at
204	Fundacja Dzika Polska		NGO Poland	14/12/2 023	Dawid Kaźmierczak alucodawid@gmail.com

205	Ecologistas en Acción		National NGO, Spain	14/12/2023	Lucas Barrero; restorenature@ecologistasenaccion.org Theo Oberhuber; naturaleza@ecologistasenaccion.org
206	SOSNA association		Regional NGO Slovakia	14.12.2023	Štefan Szabó omar.sosna@gmail.com
207	Niech Żyją!		NGO, Poland	14.12.2023	Izabela Kadłucka kontakt@niechzyja.pl
208	Psubraty		NGO, Poland	14.12.2023	Przemysław Gumułka kontakt@psubraty.pl
209	OTOP		NGO, Poland	14.12.2023	malgorzata.gorska@otop.org.pl
210	Unione Bolognese Naturalisti		NGO, Italy	14.12.2023	unibolnat@gmail.com
211	Institute for Environmental Studies, Faculty of Science, Charles University		University institute	14.12.2023	Tomas Cajthaml director tomas.cajthaml@natur.cuni.cz

212	Animal Alliance of Canada		NGO, Canada	14.12.2 023	Liz White Director liz@animalalliance.ca
213	Animal Protection Party of Canada		Federal Political Party, Canada	14.12.2 023	Barry Kent MacKay General Manager barry@animalprotectionparty.ca
214	Stowarzyszenie Carpatica		NGO, Poland	14.12.2 023	Anna Zięcik, anna.ziecik@carpatica.org
215	Animal Defenders International		NGO, UK	14.12.2 3	legislation@ad-inter-national.org
216	Riga Animal Save		NGO, Latvia	14.12	rigaanimalsave@gmail.com

217	BirdLife Hungary/MME		NGO, Hungary	14.12	Gergő Halmos director halmos.gergo@mm e.hu
218	GEOTA		National NGO, Portugal	14.12	Helder Careto Executive Secretaty geota@geota.pt
219	CIDAMB		National NGO, Portugal	14.12	Helder Careto President of the board cidamb,onga@gmai l.com
220	Bond Beter Leefmilieu		NGO, Belgium, Flanders	14.12	Erik Grietens, Policy Officer erik.grietens@bb.lv.be
221	FERUS Ours-Loup-Lynx Conservation		NGO, France	14.12	Sandrine Andrieux, chargée de communication sandrine.andrieux@ferus.org
222	European Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration		Internatio nal NGO, Belgium	14.12	Kris Decler, info@ser-europe.org
223	Gruppo Società e Ambiente		Local NGO, Senigallia , Italy	14.12	Annamaria Mori, President gsasenigallia@gmail.com
224	MTÜ Eesti Suurkiskjad (Estonian Carnivore society)		NGO, Estonia	14.12	Eleri Lopp elerilopp@hotmail.c om

225	Associação PATO		Local NGO, Portugal	14/12	Sara Moreira geral@associacao-pato.org
226	Loomus		NGO, Estonia	14/12	Anu Tensing, anu@loomus.ee
227	Plataforma loboiberico.pt		Local network, Portugal	14/12	Bruno Arrojado info@loboiberico.pt
228	Global Youth Biodiversity Network (Europe)		Regional Network, Europe	14/12	Polina Blinova (co-coordinator) blinovapolina3@gmail.com gybn.europe@gmail.com
229	Čergovfilm		Slovakia	14/12	Emil Grobauer cergovfilm@gmail.com
230	TENDUA pour la sauvegarde de la biodiversité		FRANCE	14/12/2023	Myriam DUPUIS myriam.dupuis@gmail.com
231	Estonian Society fo				

232	Association for Nature Conservation "Baltijos vilkas"		National NGO, Lithuania	14/12/2023	Vaidas Balys vbalys@gmail.com info@vilkai.lt
233	ZO ČSOP Radhošť		NGO Czech Republic	14/12/2023	František Šulgan sulgan@valachnet.cz
234	ALAMBI - Associação para o Estudo e Defesa do Ambiente do Concelho de Alenquer		Portugal	14/12/2023	Francisco Henriques francisco@alambi.org
235	NDMALO-GE		Local NGO, Portugal	14/12	Belmiro Cunha Presidente da Direção
236	Colla ecologista l'Arrel		Local NGO, Spain	14/12/2023	Àngel Such Sanz angelsuchsan@gmail.com
237	Italian Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN Italia)		National youth network, Italy	14/12/2023	Mattia Lucertini, national coordinator gybn.italy@gmail.com

238	Albatros Foundation		NGO Poland	14/12/2023	Ewa Rumińska, info@falbatros.pl

239	ZO ČSOP Armillaria		NGO, Czech rep.	14/12/2023	Mgr. Květa Morávková, armillaria@seznam. cz
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240	Österreichische juristische Gesellschaft für Tierschutzrecht (ÖjGT)		Austria	14/12/2023	kontakt@oejgt.at
241	Fundacja Rolniczej Różnorodności Biologicznej AgriNatura		NGO, Poland	14/12/23	Aleksandra Priwiezienczew biuro@agrinatura.pl
242	Spółeczny Instytut Ekologiczny		NGO, Poland	14/12/23	tomasz.wloszczowski@sie.org.pl
243	Plataforma de Ciência Aberta (Open Science Hub-Portugal)		Science Center, Portugal	14/12/23	maria@plataforma.edu.pt
244	Global Rewilding Alliance		Global NGO, based in Gland	14/12/23	welcome@globalrewilding.earth
245	Tourism, sports, civic and environmental association Bicycle Tourism Club NAPOCA (CCN)		NGO, Romania	15/12/2023	office@ccn.ro

246	Association for the Conservation of Biological Diversity		NGO, Romania	15/12	Mihai Pop office@acdb.ro
247	Natura 2000 Coalition		Coalition of 20 NGOs, Romania	15/12	office@natura2000.ro
248	Lipensko pro život		NGO Czech Republic	15/12	info@lipenskoprozivot.cz
249	Chráníme stromy		NGO Czech Republic	15.12.2023	Jaroslav Svoboda j-s-@seznam.cz
250	Society for Conservation Biology Europe (SCB Europe)		European NGO	15.12.2023	europa@conbio.org
251	NABU (Naturschutzbund Deutschland) Kreisverband Heidekreis e.V.		National NGO Germany	15.12.2023	info@nabu-heidekreis.de

252	Terra Anima, društvo za poglobljeno ekologijo (Society for deep ecology)		National NGO, Slovenia	15/12	Neja Meta Rojc neja.meta@gmail.com
253	Wildtierschutz Deutschland e.V.		National NGO, Germany	15.12.2023	Lovis Kauertz lk@wildtierschutz-deutschland.de
254	Codrii Iasilor [Old Growth Forests of Iasi]		NGO, Romania	15.12.2023	codrii.iasilor@gmail.com
255	Polish Ecological Club in Cracow, Gliwice Chapter		Poland	15.12.2023	biuro@pkegliwice.pl
256	ASPA Vosges		France	15/12/2023	Nicolas SIMONET courrier@aspa-vosges.com
257	NABU Bundesverband Germany		Germany	15.12.2023	Leif Miller bundesgeschaefsfuehrer@nabu.de

258	BirdLife Finland		Finland	15/12/2023	Tero Toivanen tero.toivanen@birdlife.fi
259	ELLINIKI ETAIRIA-Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage	 ELLINIKI ETAIRIA Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage	Greece	15/12/2023	Miltiadis Lazoglou entopia@ellinikietairia.gr
260	Towarzystwo Przyrodnicze "Bocian" (Wildlife Society STORK)		NGO, Poland	15/12/2023	Dominik Krupiński dominik@bocian.org.pl
261	Lobo Marley		NGO, Spain	14/12/	Mauricio Anton, vice president of Lobo Marley, mauricioanton24@gmail.com
262	Eurogroup for Animals		EU network	15/12	Léa Badoz, l.badoz@eurogroupforanimals.org
263	Save Estonia's Forests NGO		NGO, Estonia	15.12.23	Liina Steinberg liina@savetheforest.ee

264	Société Herpétologique de France		National NGO	15/12/20 23	president@lashf.org
265	Stiftung für das Tier im Recht (TIR)		Switzerla nd NGO	15/12/20 23	info@tierimrecht.or g
266	Alianța pentru Combaterea Abuzurilor		Romania NGO		combatereaabuzuril or@gmail.com
267	Center for environmental research and information “Eko-svest”		North Macedoni a	15/12/20 23	simona@ekosvest.c om.mk
268	Friends of the Earth Europe		European NGO Network	15/12/20 23	Friedrich.Wulf@pro natura.ch

269	Grupo Lobo - Associação para a Conservação do Lobo e do seu Ecosistema		National NGO, Portugal	15/12/20 23	Francisco Petrucchi-Fonseca, President of Grupo Lobo globo@ciencias.ulis boa.pt
270	Aevis Foundation		Slovak NGO	15/15/20 23	info@aevis.org
271	Svoboda zvířat		NGO Czech Republic	15/12/20 23	<a href="mailto:lucie.hemrova@svo
bodazvirat.cz">lucie.hemrova@svo bodazvirat.cz
272	Greenpeace European Unit		EU	15/12/20 23	Magda Stoczkiewicz, Programme Director, Greenpeace European Unit scolsell@greenpeace.org
272	Menschen für Tierrechte – Bundesverband der Tierversuchsgegn er e.V.		Germany	15/12/20 23	info@tierrechte.de

273	ALKA Wildlife		NGO, Czech Republic	15/12	katerina.polednikov a@alkawildlife.eu
274	Νέοι Πράσινοι - Neoi Prasinoi (Young Greens of Greece)		Greece	15/12	Iason Paschalidis-Geroste rgiou neoi.prasinoi@gmail. com
275	URSIA		Slovakia, National NGO	15.12.202 3	ursia@ursia.sk
276	Aktionsgemeinschaft Artenschutz (AGA) e.V.		Germany	15/12/20 23	Birgit Braun birgit.braun@aga-ar tenschutz.de
277	Naturefund e. V.		Germany	15/12/20 23	Katja Wiese katja.wiese@nature fund.de
288	EMS Foundation		South Africa	15/12/20 23	info@emsfoundatio n.org.za

289	Future 4 Wildlife		Europe	15/12/2023	europa@future4wildlife.net africa@future4wildlife.net
290	Focale pour le Sauvage		France	15/12/2023	focalepourlesauvage@gmail.com
291	The Irish Wildlife Trust		Ireland	15/12/23	kieran@iwt.ie
292	The Wildlife Animal Protection Forum South Africa		South Africa	15/12/2023	stefania@wapfsa.org
293	Rhinos in Africa		South Africa	15/12/2023	megan@megancarr.com
294	Zoo Logical		National NGO, Portugal	15/12/23	Duarte Cadete duartecrpereira@gmail.com

295	Dinaricum society		National NGO, Slovenia	15/12	Špela Hočevar spela.hocevar181@gmail.com or drustvo.dinaricum@gmail.com
296	Baleine Sous Gravillon		NGO, France	15/12	Marc Mortelmans iomords@gmail.com Thomas Prat tomas.prat.es@gmail.com
297	Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania		National NGO, Albania	15/12/20 23	Aleksandër Trajçe a.trajce@ppnea.org or Bledi Hoxha b.hoxha@ppnea.org or contact@ppnea.org
298	Asociatia Kogayon		NGO Romania	15/12/20 23	Florin Stoican florinstoican@yahoo.com office@kogayon.ro
299	Network for Urban Nature		NGO Coalition Romania	15/12/20 23	Florin Stoican florinstoican@yahoo.com

300	Pro Natura - Friends of the Earth Switzerland		Swiss NGO, Member of Friends of the Earth International	15/12/2023	Sara.Wehrli@pronatura.ch
301	CIPRA International - International Commission for the Protection of the Alps		International NGO / Liechtenstein	15/12/2023	international@cipra.org
302					
303	The Green Tank		Greece	15/12/2023	info@thegreentank.gr / christopoulou.ioli@thegreentank.gr
304	Foundation Conservation Carpathia		NRomania	15/12/2023	info@carpathia.org
305	Zielone Wiadomości		Poland	15.12.23	Beata Nowak redakcja@zielonewiadomosci.pl

306	Association Biom		Croatia	15.12.23	info@biom.hr
307	Environmental Pillar		Ireland	15.12.24	fintan@ien.ie
308	Almargem - associação de Defesa do Património cultural e Ambiental do Algarve		Portugal	15.12.23	almargem@mail.tel epac.pt

ANNEX: OPEN LETTER / CLOSED FOR EDITING

Open letter: Decision on potential modification of the protection status of the wolf

Brussels, 18th December 2023

Dear President von der Leyen,

On behalf of the 300 undersigned environmental and animal protection organisations, we are writing with regard to the European Commission's commitment to "decide on a proposal to modify, where appropriate, the status of protection of the wolf within the EU and to update the legal framework, to introduce, where necessary, further flexibility" by the end of the year ¹.

It is of significant concern that a policy decision on such a crucial issue is being prepared in a non-transparent manner. Moreover, it is based on an irregular consultation process that was launched by the Commission's press release on 'Wolves in Europe' on 4th September 2023, which included misleading information regarding wolves. Our concerns about this were outlined to you in our letter dated 11 September 2023².

We would like to re-emphasise that any decision to change the protection status of wolves must be based on reliable scientific data, according to the provisions of the relevant legislation, and not on anecdotal evidence submitted through a non-transparent and irregular consultation process.

Furthermore, we are concerned that the discussion of this issue has so far been largely dominated and driven by farming industry and hunting interest representatives, who are keen to position themselves as speaking on behalf of rural communities. Yet the reality is that there is actually a high degree of support among rural communities for the strict protection of wolves in the EU, as shown by an independent survey, commissioned by several animal protection organisations, which was carried out in November 2023 in 10 Member States³.

Unless there is substantial new science-based evidence gathered by the European Commission services, we believe the science and public opinion are clear: the modification of the protection status of the wolf - either under the EU law or the Bern Convention - is not justified.

Instead, the EU needs to:

- ensure that existing legal protections for wolves, as enshrined in the EU Habitats Directive, are upheld and enforced consistently across the Member States;

¹ as stated on the EC web-page on large carnivores

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/habitats-directive/large-carnivores_en

² available at <https://www.wwf.eu/?11704941/Open-letter-to-Commission-President-von-der-Leyen-on-protection-status-of-wolves>

³ available at <https://www.eurogroupforanimals.org/news/survey-wolves-should-be-strictly-protected-majority-rural-inhabitants-say>

- promote uptake of coexistence measures between wolves and local communities since many of those opportunities are under-utilised by the Member States;
- support initiatives that provide accurate, science-based information about wolves to the public.

Protecting wolves in Europe is not only a matter of ecological significance, but also a reflection of our commitment to biodiversity conservation and the values of coexistence and tolerance. Wolves are an integral part of Europe's natural heritage, playing a vital role in maintaining ecosystem balance and biodiversity, and the return of the wolf to parts of Europe where the species had previously been extirpated is a considerable conservation success that must not be jeopardised.

We urge you to take the recommendations of broader civil society seriously in your preparation of the European Commission's decision.

Yours sincerely,

Hendrik Spiess

Pressesprecher/ Schriftführung

Logos and list of organisations to be added