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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4	Humane Society International/Europe (HSI)	HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL EUROPE	EU	11/12	Dr Joanna Swabe jswabe@hsi.org
5	Federazione Nazionale Pro Natura	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 Sonnthal info@wildbeimwild.com
29	Palombar - Associação de Conservação da Natureza e do Património Rural		Local/Regional NGO (PT)	12.12	José Pereira (Director) palombar@palombar.pt josepereira@palombar.pt

30	ARK Rewilding Nederland		National NGO in Netherlands	12/12	Lars Soerink (Sr coms) lars.soerink@ark.eu
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39	Kemeri 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		Internatio nal NGO in Scotland, UK	12.12	Grace@otter.org
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45	Nature Trust - FEE Malta (NTM)		Voluntary NGO, Malta	12.12	info@naturetrustmalta.org
46	PPP-Movement http://ppp-movement.org		CH-based movement	12/12	Christine Bürki, founder chris@chrisbuerki-consulting.net
47	Bamff Wildland		UK-based partnership and rewilding project	12/12	Bronwen Fraser, Ecological Restoration Project Manager, bronwen.fraser11@gmail.com
48	Udruga Prizma		Croatian Youth NGO	12/12	Luana Matosevic, project coordinator luana@udrugaprizma.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	NOAH for dyrs rettigheter	National NGO, Norway	12/12	register@dyrsrettigheter.no
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67	National Wolfwatcher Coalition		National NGO	12/12	Nancy Warren nancy@wolfwatcher.org
68	Earth Action, Inc.	EARTH ACTION because the earth is not for sale	Regional NGO, United States	12/1	
69	AVES FRANCE	AVES France Agir pour le Vivant et les Espèces Sauvages	National NGO	12/12	Sylvie Cardona sylvie.cardona@aves.asso.fr
70	Wild Animal Welfare Committee	Wild Animal Welfare Committee	National NGO	12/12	Pete Goddard, Chair wildanimalwelfarecommittee@gmail.com
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85	Bulgarian Environmental Partnership Foundation		National NGO Bulgaria	12.12.2023	Lubomira Kolcheva lkolcheva@bepf-bg.org
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156	European Wilderness Society		NGO, Europe	13/12/2023	Info@wilderness-society.org

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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
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186	Society for the Protection of Prespa	SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF PRESPA	Regional NGO, Greece	14/12/2023	Vivi Roumeliotou v.roumeliotou@spp.gr
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191	DOF BirdLife	Dansk Ornitologisk Forening BirdLife DANMARK	National NGO	14/12/2023	knud.flensted@dof.dk

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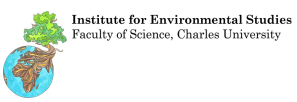
203	Umweltdachverband		national NGO	14/12/2023	franziska.werba@umweltdachverband.at
204	Fundacja Dzika Polska		NGO Poland	14/12/2023	Dawid Kaźmierczak alucodawid@gmail.com

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	ANIMAL ALLIANCE OF CANADA	NGO, Canada	14.12.2023	Liz White Director liz@animalalliance.ca
213	Animal Protection Party of Canada	Animal Protection Party of Canada	Federal Political Party, Canada	14.12.2023	Barry Kent MacKay General Manager barry@animalprotectionparty.ca
214	Stowarzyszenie Carpatica	CARPATICA	NGO, Poland	14.12.2023	Anna Zięcik, anna.ziecik@carpatica.org
215	Animal Defenders International	ADI Animal Defenders International	NGO, UK	14.12.23	legislation@ad-international.org
216	Riga Animal Save	RIGA ANIMAL SAVE · ANIMAL SAVE MOVEMENT ·	NGO, Latvia	14.12	rigaanimalsave@gmail.com

217	BirdLife Hungary/MME		NGO, Hungary	14.12	Gergő Halmos director halmos.gergo@mme.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@gmail.com
220	Bond Beter Leefmilieu		NGO, Belgium, Flanders	14.12	Erik Grietens, Policy Officer erik.grietens@bblv.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		International NGO, Belgium	14.12	Kris Decleer, 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.com

225	Associação PATO	ASSOCIAÇÃOPATO DEFESA DO PAUL DE TORNADA	Local NGO, Portugal	14/12	Sara Moreira geral@associacao-pato.org
226	Loomus	LOOMUS LOOMADE NIMEL	NGO, Estonia	14/12	Anu Tensing, anu@loomus.ee
227	Plataforma loboiberico.pt	LOBOIBERICO.PT	Local network, Portugal	14/12	Bruno Arrojado info@loboiberico.pt
228	Global Youth Biodiversity Network (Europe)	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	tendua	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, Spian	14/12/2023	Àngel Such Sanz angelsuchsanz@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

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 Priwieziencew biuro@agrinatura.pl
242	Społeczny 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 zivot		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	europe@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 bundesgeschaeftsfuehrer@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		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	15/12/2023	president@lashf.org
265	Stiftung für das Tier im Recht (TIR)		Switzerland NGO	15/12/2023	info@tierimrecht.org
266	Alianța pentru Combaterea Abuzurilor		Romania NGO		combatereaabuzurilor@gmail.com
267	Center for environmental research and information “Eko-svest”		North Macedonia	15/12/2023	simona@ekosvest.com.mk
268	Friends of the Earth Europe		European NGO Network	15/12/2023	Friedrich.Wulf@pronatura.ch

269	Grupo Lobo - Associação para a Conservação do Lobo e do seu Ecossistema	GRUPO LOBO	National NGO, Portugal	15/12/2023	Francisco Petrucci-Fonseca, President of Grupo Lobo globo@ciencias.ulisboa.pt
270	Aevis Foundation	Aevis foundation for wild nature	Slovak NGO	15/15/2023	info@aevis.org
271	Svoboda zvířat	svoboda zvířat	NGO Czech Republic	15/12/2023	lucie.hemrova@svobodazvirat.cz
272	Greenpeace European Unit	GREENPEACE	EU	15/12/2023	Magda Stoczkiewicz, Programme Director, Greenpeace European Unit scolsell@greenpeace.org
272	Menschen für Tierrechte – Bundesverband der Tierversuchsgegner e.V.	Menschen für Tierrechte Bundesverband der Tierversuchsgegner e.V.	Germany	15/12/2023	info@tierrechte.de

273	ALKA Wildlife		NGO, Czech Republic	15/12	katerina.polednikova@alkawildlife.eu
274	Νέοι Πράσινοι - Neoi Prasinoi (Young Greens of Greece)		Greece	15/12	Iason Paschalidis-Gerostergiou neoi.prasinoi@gmai.com
275	URSIA		Slovakia, National NGO	15.12.2023	ursia@ursia.sk
276	Aktionsgemeinschaft Artenschutz (AGA) e.V.		Germany	15/12/2023	Birgit Braun birgit.braun@aga-artenschutz.de
277	Naturefund e. V.		Germany	15/12/2023	Katja Wiese katja.wiese@naturefund.de
288	EMS Foundation		South Africa	15/12/2023	info@emsfoundation.org.za

289	Future 4 Wildlife		Europe	15/12/2023	europe@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	DINARICUM	National NGO, Slovenia	15/12	Špela Hočevar spela.hocevar181@gmail.com or drustvo.dinaricum@gmail.com
296	Baleine Sous Gravillon	BALEINE SOUS GRAVILLON Les podcasts du Vivant.	NGO, France	15/12	Marc Mortelmans jomords@gmail.com Thomas Prat tomas.prat.es@gmail.com
297	Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania	PPNEA PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN ALBANIA •SINCE 1991•	National NGO, Albania	15/12/2023	Aleksandër Trajçe a.trajce@ppnea.org or Bledi Hoxha b.hoxha@ppnea.org or contact@ppnea.org
298	Asociatia Kogayon	KogaYon www.kogayon.ro	NGO Romania	15/12/2023	Florin Stoican florinstoican@yahoo.com office@kogayon.ro
299	Network for Urban Nature	REȚEAUA PENTRU NATURĂ URBANĂ CONECTĂM ORAȘELE LA NATURĂ	NGO Coalition Romania	15/12/2023	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.telepac.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 2023[2].

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 States[3].

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