Council of the European Union

Brussels, 23 May 2025
(OR. pt)

9212/25
ADD 1

Interinstitutional File:
2025/0058 (COD)

CODEC 646
ENV 377

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Council Directive 92/43/EEC as regards the protection status of the wolf (Canis lupus) **(first reading)** – Adoption of the legislative act = Statement

Statement by Portugal

The results of the 2019-2021 census in Portugal indicate that the area inhabited by wolves, i.e. the Trás-os-Montes region and the area surrounding the valley to the south of the Douro, has contracted in the last two decades.

Nationally, the number of packs detected has also decreased slightly, indicating very different trends in the four existing population centres.

One of the main factors jeopardising wolf conservation in Portugal is death caused directly by humans, which in many areas continues to be responsible for the disappearance of the species and/or of packs.

Despite the ongoing conservation measures, in particular an improved system of compensation for damage attributed to wolves and the promotion of better livestock protection by providing livestock farmers with technical and financial support to implement the most appropriate measures in each situation, the conservation status of the species remains unfavourable.

Portugal did not oppose the proposal for a Council Decision on the submission, on behalf of the European Union, of a proposal to amend Annexes II and III to the Bern Convention, in solidarity with the specific needs of Member States experiencing situations different to those of Portugal with regard to the wolf's conservation status, to ensure they would be able to review this status in the light of their specific needs.

At the time of adoption of the proposal for a Decision (dated 24 September), Portugal submitted an explanation of its vote making it clear that it will maintain the current policy on the conservation of the wolf on its territory, with a view to ensuring that this species achieves a favourable conservation status and in line with its commitment to the conservation objective set by the Habitats Directive.

Portugal reiterates the terms of the Declaration of 24 September 2024 and states that, despite the amendments to the Annexes to the Bern Convention and the present proposal to amend Directive 92/43/EEC, it intends to maintain the current strict protection status of Iberian wolves on its national territory, in accordance with the option provided for in Article 193 TFEU, whereby Member States are authorised to maintain or introduce enhanced protective measures compatible with the Treaties and notified to the Commission.

Therefore, to that end, and taking into account the provisions of Recital (6) of the present proposal to amend Directive 92/43/EEC, Portugal will notify the European Commission, within the deadline for transposition of the Directive, of its decision to maintain, in accordance with the abovementioned option, the current strict protection status of Iberian wolves on its national territory.