

DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL RIGHTS, HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENT

Ms Eva Hauge FONTAINE
Senior Adviser
Nature Management Department
Norwegian Environment Agency
Brattørkaia 15
7010 Trondheim
Norway

Strasbourg, 27 October 2025

Subject: Complaint No. 2022/03: Open File: Norway: Wolf culling policy

Dear Ms Fontaine,

At its third ordinary meeting of 2025 on 16-18 September, the Bureau of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention re-examined the above-mentioned complaint in light of the most recently submitted reports by the authorities and complainant.

Decision: The Bureau:

Thanked both parties for their reports.

Expressed strong concern regarding the conservation status of the South Scandinavian wolf population in view of its high genetic vulnerability, the plans to maintain the Norwegian population very small and to significantly decrease the population in Sweden, signalled by the complainants.

Urged the government to reconsider the wolf culling policy, which the Bureau considers incompatible with the obligation to ensure a satisfactory population level and thus in breach of the Bern Convention, and requested the Secretariat to swiftly prepare a meeting between the Norwegian authorities, the complainants and the Bureau, with involvement of experts in the domains of large carnivores conservation and management as well as international law. Associating the Swedish authorities should also be considered.

Recommended further efforts to decrease the very high inbreeding coefficient in wolf packs in Norway, with enhanced possibilities for new, genetically significant individuals to migrate and be well protected.

Expressed concern over possible implications of a recent amendment of the Nature Diversity Act allowing so-called emergency culling where "it is highly probable that an attack (on grazing animals) is imminent". Asked for further information about the change and recommended putting in place safeguards, to mitigate the risk of abuse of the new provisions.

Took note of the requests of the Complainants, in particular to investigate the issue of Favourable Reference Population, in cooperation with the representatives of Sweden and the EU, and to ensure that the conditions for the favourable conservation status of the wolf in Sweden and Norway are met.

Stressed the role of the Group of Experts on large carnivores in considering possible solutions, including developing a common understanding of certain aspects concerning management of transboundary populations of large carnivores between EU and non-EU Member States and involving the Chair of the Group in relevant discussions.

Requested update reports ahead of the Standing Committee meeting in December 2025, in case further relevant developments occur.

Invited both parties to make a brief presentation at the **45th Standing Committee** meeting, focusing on the issues above.

Should your authorities decide to send an update to their latest report for presentation at the 45th Standing Committee, which will meet in person **in Strasbourg from 8th December to 12th December 2025**, kindly submit it to the Secretariat no later than **14th November 2025**.

Case-file reports should contain the information requested by the Standing Committee or its Bureau and be as concise as possible. The report should be strictly kept to a maximum of 6 pages in total and submitted in electronic WORD format. If you require more space or to attach photographs or other heavy media, kindly send a separate annex to the report, if possible with a link to a Cloud Drive. Reports should also include, at the beginning of the analysis, an abstract of approximately 2700 characters (with spaces).

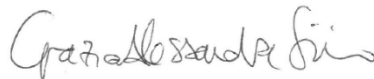
Furthermore, if the representative at the meeting will use a PowerPoint presentation or speaking notes, kindly send these to the Secretariat before the meeting and **no later than 3rd December 2025**, in order to accommodate the interpreters and enable the efficient functioning of the meeting.

The same deadlines apply to the complainant organisation for the submission of an updated report and/or PowerPoint for the attention of the Standing Committee.

Due to the busy agenda, timekeeping is crucial and **presentations must be strictly kept to a maximum of 10 minutes**. The Chair will keep strict time control during the presentations. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping to ensure the smooth functioning of the meeting.

On behalf of the Bureau, I would like to thank you for your ongoing cooperation with the Bern Convention and for your work in protecting species and habitats.

Yours sincerely,



Alessandra Siino
Secretary of the Bern Convention

Cc: Permanent Representation of Norway to the Council of Europe
Ms Maline Salicath Gordner, Ministry of Climate and Environment;
NOAH - for animal rights (Complainant);
Margareth Konst, Assistant Professor, Stefanie Reinhardt and Professor Ragnhild Sollund (Co-complainants).