

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, 18 May 2026

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

Dear Ms Fontaine,

At its first ordinary meeting of 2026 on 7-9 April, the Bureau of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention examined the above-mentioned complaint in light of the most recently submitted reports by the authorities and complainant.

**The Bureau:**

Thanked both parties for their update reports.

Regretted lack of change in the wolf culling policy, undermining the survival of the extremely small and genetically impoverished population, leading to uncertainty even as to whether the extremely limited population target may be reached.

Acknowledged that no licence was granted for culling in the wolf management zone in the current season and that limited use was made so far of the extensive licence granted for culling wolves outside of the zone; asked for an update on the culling in 2025/26 season and on the further internal court proceedings regarding the Government most recent decision on culling wolves.

Noted the on-going work on updating the guidelines for the management of genetically important wolves migrating to Norway and asked for information on its results.

Urged the Government, who continue justifying the culling policy by an overriding public interest, to apply non-lethal measures, the most proven way of mitigating conflict, and asked about the social impact of the current approach.

Second the Complainants in expressing strong concern that general use of aircraft and motor vehicles, including drones, as well as thermal imaging devices during the culling of

large carnivores for damage prevention, allowed by the new Wild Resources Act, would be incompatible with the Article 8 of the Convention.

Asked for information on the conclusions of the group of legal experts appointed in 2024 to assess Norway's obligations i.a. on preservation of large carnivores, to be used by the Government as the basis to decide if the provisions of Section 17 of the Norwegian Nature Diversity Act should be changed.

Asked the Secretariat for information about the situation of the Swedish part of the Southern Scandinavian wolf population.

Tasked the Secretariat with convening a meeting with the relevant decision makers in the Government and/or Parliament, the Complainants and the Bureau, to discuss an alternative approach to the culling policy in place.

Invited both parties to report to the Bureau in **autumn 2026**, providing the above-mentioned information and any other relevant developments.

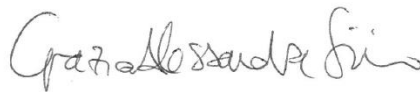
I would like to invite the authorities to send a progress report including the above-requested information and any other relevant updates **no later than 31 July 2026**, to be addressed at the **2026 autumn meeting of the Bureau**, which will take place in Strasbourg on 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2026.

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 submitted in electronic WORD format and strictly kept to a maximum of 6 pages in total, including an abstract of approximately 2700 characters (with spaces), which will be included in a publicly available summary document. If you require additional space or wish to attach photographs or other heavy media, please send them as a separate annex to the report. Wherever possible, provide a secure link to a Cloud Drive for ease of access.

The same deadline and format requirements apply to the complainant for the submission of an updated report.

On behalf of the Standing Committee and 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,



Grazia-Alessandra Siino  
Secretary of the Bern Convention

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