



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate D - Natural Capital
ENV.D.3 – Nature Protection
The Head of Unit

Brussels,
ENV.D.3 NN/MA/pp ARES (2017)

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for your email dated 15 February 2017. I reply on behalf of Commissioner Vella.

The Commission is aware that Finland implements a new wolf management plan since 2015. The plan includes many positive activities to address the co-existence between people and wolves. In addition, the management plan has included a two year project to test the management of wolves on the basis of their territories. The Finnish authorities have recently assessed the implementation of this project and have recognised some serious shortcomings in relation to the hunting of wolves in the 2015/2016 winter season.

In this regard, the Commission is discussing with the Finnish authorities to ensure compliance with the provisions in Article 16 of the Habitats Directive which only allows wolf hunting under strict conditions. We are currently assessing how the Finnish authorities have taken into account the Commission's observations and the lessons learned in 2015/2016 when deciding on their actions for 2017. We will decide on the most appropriate course of action on the basis of our conclusions.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Notaro