



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

Brussels,
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Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for your letter dated 17 October 2016 including a petition asking to stop licensed hunting of wolves in Finland. I reply to you on behalf of Commissioner Vella.

The Commission is aware that over the past two years Finland has been implementing its new wolf management plan. The plan includes many positive activities to address the co-existence between people and wolves. As referred to in your petition, the management plan included a two year project to test the management of wolves on the basis of their territories. The Finnish authorities have assessed the implementation of this project and have recognised some shortcomings in relation to the hunting in the 2015/2016 winter season.

In this regard, the Commission has opened a dialogue with the Finnish authorities to ensure compliance with the derogation provisions in Article 16 of the Habitats Directive which only allows wolf hunting under strict conditions. We expect the Finnish authorities will take fully into account the Commission's observations and the lessons learned in 2015/2016 when deliberating on future actions.

The Commission will continue to monitor closely the implementation of the Finnish wolf management plan to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Notaro