






Energy, Environment & Transport

First wolves, now bears: EPP eyes further changes to nature protection

EPP aims to use revision of the wolf's status to include the bear, but it may not be legally feasible.

Bárbara Machado | **Euractiv** |  Dec 5, 2024 |  18:36 |  2 min. read
 Content type: News |  Euractiv is part of the Trust Project

Languages: Deutsch

According to an EPP internal draft document seen by Euractiv, the centre-right political group wants to revise the protection status of the bear and other species, along with the finalised downgrade of the wolf's protections.

Following this week's **approval by the Bern Convention Committee**, the EU may now downgrade the protection status of the wolf from "strictly protected" to "protected". The Commission must amend the EU Habitats Directive to legally enact this decision.

The Commission **recently clarified** the change "will be limited to a modification of the protection status of the wolf only," but the EPP seems to have other plans.

Euractiv saw the EPP's draft internal document, which proposes what the Commission should work on in 2025. This includes "revising the protection status of wolves, bears and other species."

The document clarifies that this would be done through changes to the EU Habitats and Birds Directives.

NGOs argue that the EPP's plan may not be legally sound.

"The brown bear is also listed as a strictly protected species under the Bern Convention. If the EU lowers the protection status of the bear, it would be breaching the Bern Convention," Sabien Leemans, policy officer at WWF EU, told Euractiv.

[Privacy](#) - [Terms](#)

The Bern Convention, however, is unlikely to pose much of a barrier if EU member states are committed to downgrading the status of other species.

"The EU has the majority of the votes in the Convention, so each time the EU proposes, the proposal is accepted," Gaia Angelini, president of NGO Green Impact, told Euractiv.

Following this week's Bern Convention decision on the wolf, WWF and other NGOs **warned** that it may have negative implications for the protection of other species.

[Edited by Donagh Cagney/Rajnish Singh]

© 1999 - 2024 | Efficacité et Transparence des Acteurs Européens. **EURACTIV MEDIA NETWORK BV.** | [Terms and Conditions](#) | [Cookie Policy](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact us](#)

