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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

32nd meeting
Strasbourg, 27-30 November 2012

Other complaints

**MANAGEMENT OF THE WOLF (*CANIS LUPUS*)
IN UKRAINE**

REPORT BY THE NGO

PRACOWNIA NA RZECZ WSZYSTKICH ISTOT

*Document prepared by
Pracownia na rzecz Wszystkich Istot*



Stowarzyszenie Pracownia na rzecz Wszystkich Istot

Adres: 43-360 Bystra ul. Jasna 17, tel./fax.: (+48)/33/ 817 14 68; tel. /33/ 818 31 53
e-mail: biuro@pracownia.org.pl, <http://www.pracownia.org.pl>
Konto bankowe: BS Bystra, 15 8133 0003 0001 0429 2000 0001

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Bystra, 20.06.2012

Ivana d'ALESSANDRO

Biological Diversity Unit
Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

France

By reason of the inadequate conservation status of the gray wolf population in the Ukraine we hereby request that the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) analyse the issue and take actions in order to assure the complete implementation of the Bern Convention with regards to the gray wolf conservation.

Although the Ukraine is a party to the Bern Convention, according to the information we have the Ukrainian gray wolf population is not adequately protected. Each year approximately 50% of the population is culled. The permission to such an intensive cull is issued regardless of the lack of crucial knowledge on the Ukrainian wolf population dynamics and consequently with no consideration of essentially justified scientific conclusions on the wolf population conservation status. This means that the Ukrainian practices regarding the gray wolf render impossible the realization of the objective of the Bern Convention as expressed in art. 1 'The aims of this Convention are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, especially those species and habitats whose conservation requires the co-operation of several States, and to promote such co-operation'. Moreover, according to the Ukrainian legislation (Про мисливське господарство та полювання, Стаття 33) the gray wolf has the status of a pest, which is contrary to its status according to the Bern Convention, namely 'an endangered vulnerable species'. The wolf cull in the Ukraine does not guarantee neither protection nor conservation of the gray wolf population. Furthermore, it is in contradiction to the conservation status of the gray wolf as defined by the Convention. We are of the opinion that this state is obviously contrary to the requirements of art. 6-9 of the Convention.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that the Polish gray wolf population is connected with and strictly dependent on the wolf populations in Russia, Lithuania, Belarus, Slovakia and the Ukraine. Intensive wolf hunting in the Ukraine, particularly within the border zone, results in the wolves from the strictly protected Polish population being killed. This has a serious negative impact on the Polish gray wolf population state and dynamics. In view of the above, we ask that any steps resulting in the Ukraine complying with the Bern Convention be taken immediately. At the same time we declare readiness to provide additional explanations should any further questions or doubts occurred.

Yours faithfully,

Radosław Ślusarczyk
President of the Board of the Organisation
Pracownia na rzecz Wszystkich Istot