



Strasbourg, 19 February 2026

T-PVS/Files(2026)2022-03_gov

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

46th meeting

Strasbourg, 7-11 December 2026

Bureau of the Standing Committee

7-9 April 2026

Strasbourg

Open File: 2022/03

**Wolf Culling Policy in Norway
(Norway)**

- GOVERNMENT REPORT -

*Document prepared by the
Royal Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment*



Secretariat of the Bern Convention

Your ref

Our ref
24/223-

Date
11 February 2026

Government report- Complaint No. 2022/03 - Open File - Norway - Wolf culling policy

Introduction

The Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment refer to your letter dated December 19th, 2025, inviting Norwegian authorities to send a report on requested information and other relevant updates to be addressed at the spring meeting of the Bureau. In this report, we comment on the Standing Committee's decision and provide some relevant updates.

General comments

While the Government take note of the decision of the Standing Committee, we still maintain the position that the Norwegian wolf culling policy is in accordance with the Convention. For further information and elaboration of our view, we refer to previous reports. Regarding the challenges with the genetic status of the wolf population, this is of great importance to improve. As previously stated, the Government is therefore working on updating the guidelines for the management of genetically important wolves migrating to Norway. The process is ongoing, and we will keep the Bureau updated on the progress going forward.

With regards to the call for dialogue with relevant stakeholders, the Government would like to inform the Bureau that we have frequent dialogue regarding the management of large carnivores in general, and wolf management specifically, with a large number of relevant organisations each year. In addition, the Government would like to mention the existence of established regular forums for information- and knowledge exchange related to the management of large carnivores. The forum for large carnivore management¹ meets once

¹ [Kontaktutvalg for rovviltforvaltning - regjeringen.no](https://kontaktutvalg.for.rovviltforvaltning-regjeringen.no)

every year, and consists of relevant members of authorities, research institutions and representatives from 18 relevant organisations. Regarding the dialogue with Swedish authorities, we have arranged a meeting to discuss the possibilities for more common conservation efforts for the wolf population later this spring.

Regarding Section 17 of the Norwegian Nature Diversity Act

With reference to the Standing Committee's request to reconsider the provision for emergency culling in light of the Convention, our view is that it is premature to conclude that there is a need for changes to this provision. The Ministry has appointed a group of legal experts in December 2024, that will deliver an assessment of Norway's legal obligations on preservation of large carnivores and indigenous people this spring. One of the relevant matters the group is asked to consider, is section 17 of the Norwegian Nature Diversity Act. For these reasons, the Ministry presently does not have plans to propose changes to this provision. When the expert's assessment is delivered, the Government will consider their recommendations and assess if changes to the relevant section are necessary.

Relevant updates

Since the government's report in November last year, and the meeting of the Standing Committee in December 2025, there have not been any significant changes to report regarding the national culling policy or the management of wolves in Norway in general. However, we would like to inform the Bureau about ongoing wolf culling, internal court proceedings regarding the Government's most recent decision for culling of wolves, as well as updated information on the wolf population.

Wolf culling in Norway 2025 – 2026

Inside the wolf management zone, the regional management authorities have decided not to allow culling of wolves this season.

In November 2025 the Ministry decided to allow culling of up to 27 wolves in areas outside the wolf management zone this season, which last from December 1st, 2025, until May 31st, 2026. The quota outside of the management zone consists of quotas for up to eight management regions. The quotas represent the maximum number of wolves allowed to be culled in each region, and over the last five years, these quotas have varied from 2 to 14 wolves. The last five years, between 3 and 38 per cent (median of 23 per cent) of the quota outside the management zone has been culled per year. So far this season, one wolf has been culled from this quota.

Ongoing internal court proceedings

In December 2025 the environmental organization "Ulv i hele Norge" filed a lawsuit seeking a prohibition on issuing culling permits and requested a preliminary injunction to remain in effect until the case had been finally adjudicated by the courts. On December 17th, 2025, Oslo District Court dismissed the case, as the Court found that the case did not concern a legal claim in line with the requirements of the Norwegian Disputes Act. On January 19th,

2026, the organisation appealed the ruling from Oslo District Court. The Appeal Court is yet to reach a conclusion in this case.

Updated monitoring data – Scandinavian wolf population

Preliminary data from the surveillance of wolves this season was published December 17th, 2025.² In the period between October 1st and December 10th in the 2025–2026 winter season, a total of 34–45 wolves have so far been documented as residing in Norway or on both sides of the national border with Sweden, whereas 22-33 only in Norway. So far this winter, two wolf packs residing exclusively in Norway have been documented, as well as two packs with a permanent presence on both sides of the national border.

Yours sincerely

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Tia Sophie Jacobsen
Adviser

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