

Proposal for an own-initiative opinion on "Promoting coexistence with conflict species within the framework of the EU Nature Directives"

| <i>Opinion</i> | <i>Commission</i> | <i>Rapporteur</i> | <i>Political objective</i> | <i>Relevance to political priorities</i> | <i>Specific local or regional dimension</i> | <i>Strategic relevance</i> |
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| Own-initiative opinion on "Promoting coexistence with conflict species within the framework of the EU Nature Directives" | ENVE | Csaba BORBOLY (RO/EPP) | Following the fitness-check of the Birds and Habitats Directives, the European Commission adopted on 27 April 2017 an <i>Action Plan for Nature, People and the Economy</i> covering 4 priority areas with 15 concrete steps to better implement the Directives (COM(2017) 198 final). The Action Plan has been strongly supported by the CoR and the CoR will be co-responsible for the implementation of several of its actions. One of the actions under the "political ownership and compliance" priority area touches upon the challenges arising from the conservation of species and habitats and socio-economic activities, including in particular human-wildlife conflicts (Action 7, see detailed factsheet in SWD (2017) 139 final). These challenges are not inherent in the Nature Directives themselves, but in their | Objecting to a revision of the Nature Directives, the CoR raised the need for a better implementation of the Nature Directives in its opinion on the <i>Contribution to REFIT process for the EU Birds and Habitats Directives (ENVE-VI/005)</i> . It also refers to this in its <i>Opinion on the Mid-term evaluation on the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) 2014-2020 (ENVE-VI/016)</i> . The ENVE Commission work programme for 2017 lists the contribution to the implementation the European Commission Action Plan for improved implementation of the Nature Directives as a priority. | Regional and local authorities are key actors in the protection of endangered species and habitats that is why the proper implementation of the Nature Directives is impossible without giving a significant role to LRAs and other local stakeholders. This has been recognised by the European Commission in the Action Plan on the Nature Directives. Local and regional authorities are responsible for managing conflict species (e.g. large carnivores, geese, cormorant) within the rural context applying necessary measures in various sectors including agriculture, forestry, hunting, transport, and the protection of rural residents. Regarding the protection of endangered species and habitats, every region has its own specificity, with e.g. several regions being used to co-existence with large carnivores, and others which are just re-populated by such | The opinion will contribute to the implementation of the European Commission's <i>Action Plan for Nature, People and the Economy</i> for the most threatened species and natural habitats as well as stakeholder platforms on the coexistence with conflict species. Taking into consideration the fact that the European Commission has launched several initiatives related to large carnivores – including also the topic of co-existence between humans and animals, – the opinion aims to increase the effectiveness of these initiatives. One of the proposals could be to organise a joint CoR – EC conference in the framework of the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores to share good examples in this field. The opinion also aims to strengthen the cooperation with the EP ENVI committee on this topic, more |

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| | | | <p>implementation at local, regional and Member State level.</p> <p>The opinion will give a special focus to the human-wildlife conflict management at local and regional level that ensures the conservation of endangered species and their habitats and the protection of human life and economic activities.. Given the fact that more than 20 EU countries have on their territory at least one of four large carnivore species protected under the EU's Habitats Directive, the opinion will also focus on a better cooperation between Member States and regions, enhanced dialogue with all the relevant stakeholders, and sharing good practices in conservation and management of conflict species</p> | | <p>species. Therefore the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions and the Member States in their implementation of the Action Plan on the Nature Directives, will have to take into account the local and regional specificities, where a specific management is required in order to ensure not only the protection of endangered wild animals, but also the protection of human activities. Based on these aspects, the opinion aims also to analyse the regional and local specificities in order to ensure a better conservation of endangered species and habitats which takes into account socio-economic aspects.</p> | <p>specifically, in view of the pilot project entitled "Establishing regional or local platforms coexistence between people and large carnivores focused key actions for large carnivores in areas with high levels of conflict."</p> |