



# Revaluation of the wolf population in the EU: Impacts on the environment and rural communities

John Linnell



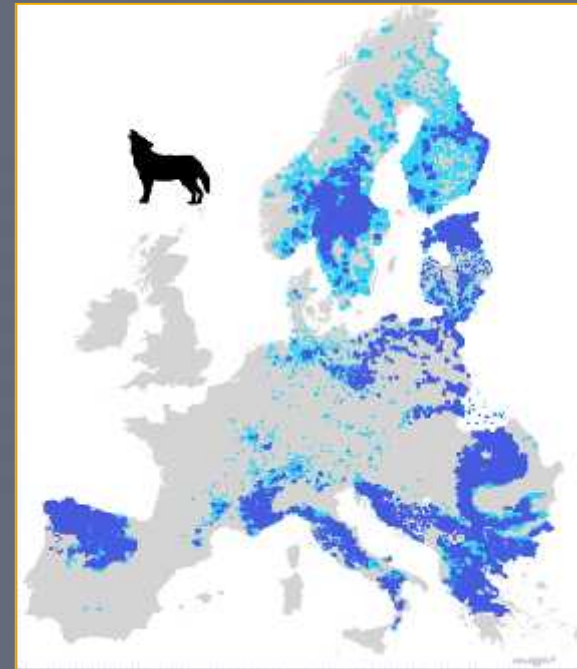
05:12:2019  
European Parliament

# Conservation success & source of conflict

- ▶ Two types of conflict:

(1) Economic conflicts

(2) Social conflicts



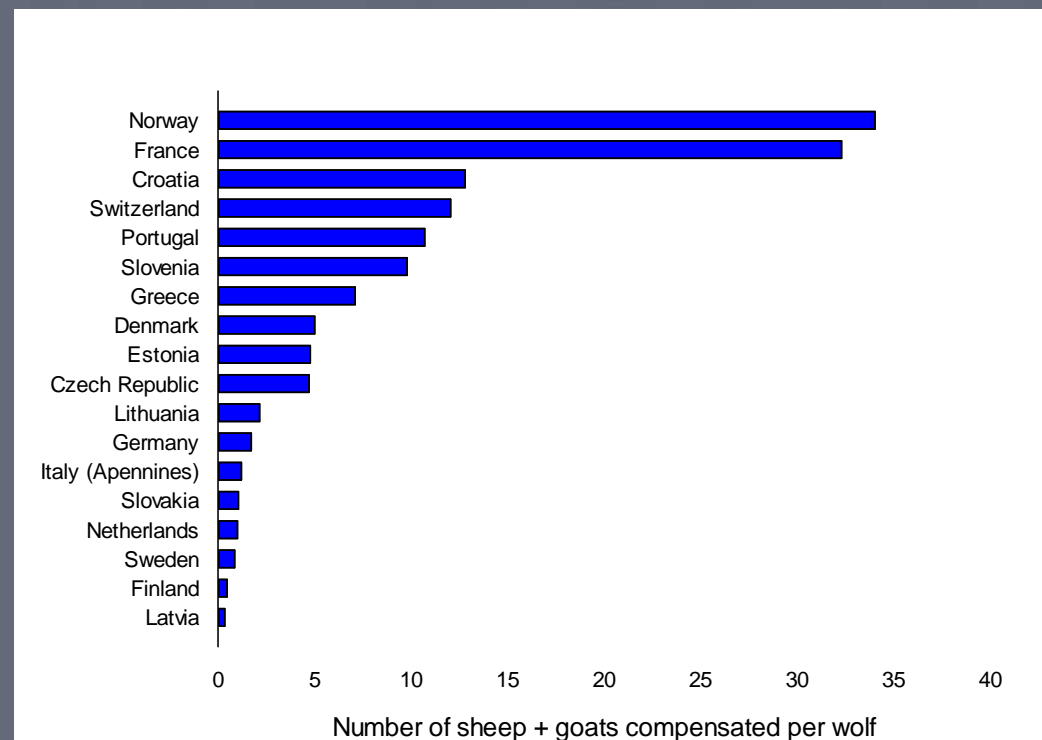
c. 17,000 in Europe  
c. 13 -14,000 in EU  
9 populations  
Vulnerable – Least Concern

## Economic: Livestock losses due to wolves

Average of 19,500 sheep compensated / killed p.a. in EU sample (excl. Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Spain, Austria)

<0.05% of sheep population of mainland EU

Local impacts can be very high!



*Linnell & Cretois (2018) Report to EU Parliament*

# Economic: Livestock losses due to wolves

Mitigation measures exist.

Not always easy or cheap.

Compensation and economic assistance is now widespread.

Lethal control has a role, but secondary to prevention.



*Linnell & Cretois (2018) Report to EU Parliament*

## Economic: Livestock losses due to wolves

Semi-domestic reindeer in Nordic countries.

Much harder to mitigate.

Greater need for lethal control.



# Socio-economic conflicts: between people

Conflicts with hunters

Competition for same prey

- ▶ Harvesting nature's surplus?

Killing of dogs

- ▶ Risk intrinsic to hunting?





# Social conflicts: between people

---

## Conflict Dimensions

- ▶ Fear
- ▶ Different values
- ▶ Knowledge
- ▶ Power & influence
- ▶ Administration
- ▶ Personalities

## Social Divisions

- ▶ Rural vs urban
- ▶ Modern vs traditional
- ▶ Age & gender
- ▶ Occupation
- ▶ Political orientation

Different “publics” have very different visions of nature and the relationship between humans and wildlife.

## Social conflicts: between people

---

We understand conflicts well.

Solutions to some exist, but are often complex – practically, socially and legally.

Need to focus on dialogue and engagement.

Major role for non-lethal approaches to mitigate livestock conflicts.

Lethal control also certainly has a place in the tool-kit (but fuels controversy).



# Wolf management in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

---

- ▶ We have gone beyond saving a species from extinction.
- ▶ Must learn to live with the wolf as a part of our rural landscape ..... As a wild and sometimes challenging neighbor.
- ▶ Defining this relationship is a work in progress!
  - ▶ Recognising and respecting diversity of views.
  - ▶ Respecting our legal frameworks.
  - ▶ Finding the “good” compromises.
  - ▶ Building on common ground & finding common cause.
- ▶ Coexistence: human-wolf and human-human.