



EU State of play

# Large Carnivores

Michèle Boudoin

Chair – Copa Cogeca's Working Party on Sheep & Goat

29/11/2021

**copa**\***cogeca**  
european farmers      european agri-cooperatives



# Large carnivores – State of Play

- \* Situation by Member State (AT; BE; DK; FI; DE; IT; LV; NL; SI; ES; SE; FR)
- \* The impact of the large carnivores' expansion in the life of farmers
- \* Closing remarks



Crédit photo FX Emery / MRE

# Austria

- \* Current population level:

- \* 2020: 1 pack of 40 wolves confirmed
- \* 2021: up until September, 31 wolves have been confirmed, essentially coming from beyond the Italian border.
- \* Stable population of bears.
- \* Stable population of lynx.
- \* Proof of 3-4 golden jackals.

- \* Number of reported attacks per year:

- \* 2021: 415 animals killed
- \* 2020: 350 animals killed
- \* 2019: 200 animals killed
- \* 2018: 150 animals killed

- \* Financial damage:

- \* In the last four years, a total of € 321,941 was paid out in Austria to compensate for damage caused by large carnivores. Approx. 60 % was paid for wolf damage and approx. 40 % for bear damage.



# Belgium (Wallonia)

- \* Current population level:

- \* Wolves have appeared in Belgium in the past 4 years.
- \* First packs are settling.
- \* It is essentially a country of passage for wolves – 18 wolves have been registered going through in the past 4 years.

- \* Number of reported attacks per year:

- \* 130 attacks in the past 4 years.

- \* Financial damage:

- \* In 2021, Wallonia spent €7,000 in compensations and €100,000 on wolf analysis and management of the networks. Budget is in constant evolution to follow the recent return of the wolf.



# Belgium (Flanders)

- \*Current population level:

- \*1 wolf pack consisting of 10 wolves : the first wolf arrived in Flanders in 2018.

- \*Number of reported attacks per year:

- \* In 2020, 108 animals fell prey to the wolf, a lot more than the year before, when 51 animals were killed.
  - \* This year (up to October): 250 animals were killed.

- \*Financial damage:

- \* 2018: 2,990€
  - \* 2019 : 10,200€
  - \* 2020: - 16,229€



# Denmark

- \* Current population level:

- \* The current population (2nd quarter 2021) amounts 15 wolves. (2 pairs - one of them with 4 cubs, and 7 solitary adult wolves.)
- \* Population same time last year (2nd quarter 2020): 9-11 wolves

- \* Number of reported attacks per year:

- \* 2013: 11 attacks
- \* 2014: 13 attacks
- \* 2015: 6 attacks
- \* 2016: 6 attacks
- \* 2017: 24 attacks (number of killed livestock: 54)
- \* 2018: 28 attacks (number of killed livestock: 98)
- \* 2019: 25 attacks (number of killed livestock: 198)
- \* 2020: 43 attacks (number of killed livestock: 242)

- \* Financial damage:

- \* In 2019, 249.000 Dkr (App. 33.200 euro) was paid to farmers for damage done by wolves (killed or injured animal).



# Finland

- \* Current population level:
  - \* Wolves:
    - \* March 2021: there were 30 packs (+ 16 %), 21 couples and 279-321 wolves (+ 31 %, change 2020-2021)
    - \* Currently, there are about 350-400 wolfs. This is the highest population in 50 years.
  - \* Bears:
    - \* March 2021, there were 2670-2800 bears. The population has grown 12% in a year.
    - \* In 7 years, population has grown about 50 %.
  - \* Lynx:
    - \* 2155 - 2280 animals. 4 % more than 1 year ago
- \* Number of reported attacks (2020):
  - \* Wolves:
    - \* In 2020, there were 35 sheep attacks (323 sheep dead or injured), 55 dogs, 6 cows and 1 horse
    - \* Reindeer herding area: 728 killed reindeer (2020), already 900 for the ongoing year 2021
  - \* Bears:
    - \* 25 attacks on 123 sheep, 127 beehives
  - \* Lynx
    - \* 10-30 attacks/ 30-60 sheep lost
  - \* Plus, numerous attacks of wolverines in reindeer areas.
- \* Financial damage (2020):
  - \* Compensations of domestic animals were of 326 000 euros (reindeer herding area not included)
  - \* In reindeer herding area, carnivores' damages and compensations 2020 were of 9,4 million euros: roughly about 60% for wolverine (5,4 mil €), 10% bear (1 mil €), 10% lynx (1 mil €), 10% wolf (1 mil €)). Wolverine is the large carnivore with the most damaging impact in the reindeer herding area.





# Germany

\* Current population level:

Monitoring year (01.05 – 30.04)	Packs	Pairs	Territorial individuals	Territories
2015/16	47	21	4	72
2016/17	60	24	3	87
2017/18	77	42	3	122
2018/19	105	40	12	157
2019/20	128	38	9	175

\* Number of reported attacks per year:

Year	Attacks	Total livestock killed
2016	285	1.079
2017	472	1.667
2018	639	2.067
2019	887	2.894
2020	942	3.959

\* Financial damage:

Year	Prevention costs	Compensation payments
2016	Inaccurately labelled „herd protection measures“ 1.100.963,08 €	135.140,28 €
2017	1.324.956 €	187.894 €
2018	2.380.109 €	231.790 €
2019	8.038.110 €	418.246 €
2020	9.501.690 €	800.294 €





# Italy

## \* Current population level:

### \* Wolves:

- \* The population of Italian wolves has reached about 2,000 specimens and has a real possibility of spreading to peninsular Italy. They are spreading to other countries with borders on the Alps.
- \* There are many reports of cases of hybridization between wild dogs and wolves (e.g.: 30% in Tuscany).

\* European brown bear: present in the eastern Alps with two populations.

\* Marsican bear: present on the central Apennines, with a total population of 55-85 specimens (of which 45 - 69 in the National Park of Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise).

## \* Financial damage and compensation:

- \* The State recognizes to breeders and companies the compensation for predation suffered by wolves (L.157 / 92 and L.394 / 91) and stray or feral dogs (L.281 / 91).
- \* Compensation alone is not enough to solve the problem as they do not reduce the predator's attacks on livestock, they do not improve the management of the company and they do not reduce the stress level of the farmer. Also, they are usually paid after a delay.



# Latvia

## \*Current population level:

- \* Stable population estimated at around 1000 wolves (hunting is allowed).
- \* Growing population of bears (hunting is not allowed).

## \*Number of reported attacks per year:

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (Nov)
14	30	39	30	33

Animals attacked by wolves	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Killed	115	100	72	131	170	86
Injured	62	34	31	45	105	18



# The Netherlands

- \* Current population level:

- \* In October 2021 there were approximately 15 - 20 wolves living in the Netherlands in 3 territories. There are also wolves coming from Germany and Belgium.

- \* Number of reported attacks per year:

- \* Last year 2020 there were 94 confirmed wolf attacks, mostly sheep. Also 3 calves were killed. For this year (until October) there were 30 confirmed attacks already.

- \* Financial damage:

- \* The financial damage in 2020 and 2021 was direct damage, caused by killed sheep and calves. The total loss was in 2020 about €75.000. There are also other costs.
    - \* Investment in flexible and permanent fences
    - \* Costs of time for placing the fences
    - \* Costs for maintaining fences and fencing
    - \* Costs of labour for housing animals in fenced areas and stables to protect them for wolves
    - \* Lower production after attacks of wolves.



# Slovenia

## \*Current population level:

- \* Volves have tripled in last 10 years from 40 to 130 and bear doubled in 8 years to 1200 on a very small area in the wild (500.000 ha).
- \* There is a lot of tension as when the animals will start losing fear for humans.

## \*Financial damage:

- \* Still to quantify, but there are many farms that have closed already, as costs of prevention are increasing.





# Spain

## \* Population:

Region	Most recent figures	Number of Packs	Individual wolves spotted
Andalucía	2014	0	
Aragón	2021	0	3-6
Asturias	2020	38	-
Cantabria	2020/2021	20 (7)	-
Castilla-La Mancha	2020	2-3	-
Castilla y León	2014	179 (16)	-
Cataluña	2020	0	2-3
Extremadura	2020	0	10
Galicia	2014	84 (7)	-
La Rioja	2020	3	-
Madrid	2020	5	-
País Vasco	2019	0	2-4

## \* Number of reported attacks per year:

- \* In 2020, there were 4413 attacks, that killed and wounded 9872 animals.

## \* Financial damage:

- \* In 2020, around 2,5€ million were paid in compensation for the livestock lost.

# Sweden

## \* Current population level:

- \* Wolves: 2020 - 365 | 2021 - 395
- \* Brown bear: 2013 - 2800 | 2017 - 2900 [Bear estimated by analysing DNA in bear scats. Estimation made every 3 – 5 years]
- \* Lynx: 2020 - 1118 | 2021 - 1244
- \* Wolverine: 2020 - 687 | 2021 - 637

## \* Number of reported attacks per year:

- \* Wolves: 2020, 419 attacked livestock, during 75 attacks
- \* Brown bear: 2020, 12 attacked livestock, during 6 attacks
- \* Lynx: 2020, 110 attacked livestock, during 64 attacks
- \* Wolverine: Wolverine attacks not included because of a different system of subsidies in the reindeer husbandry area. Reindeer predation is almost 100 % of problems caused by wolverine.

## \* Financial damage:

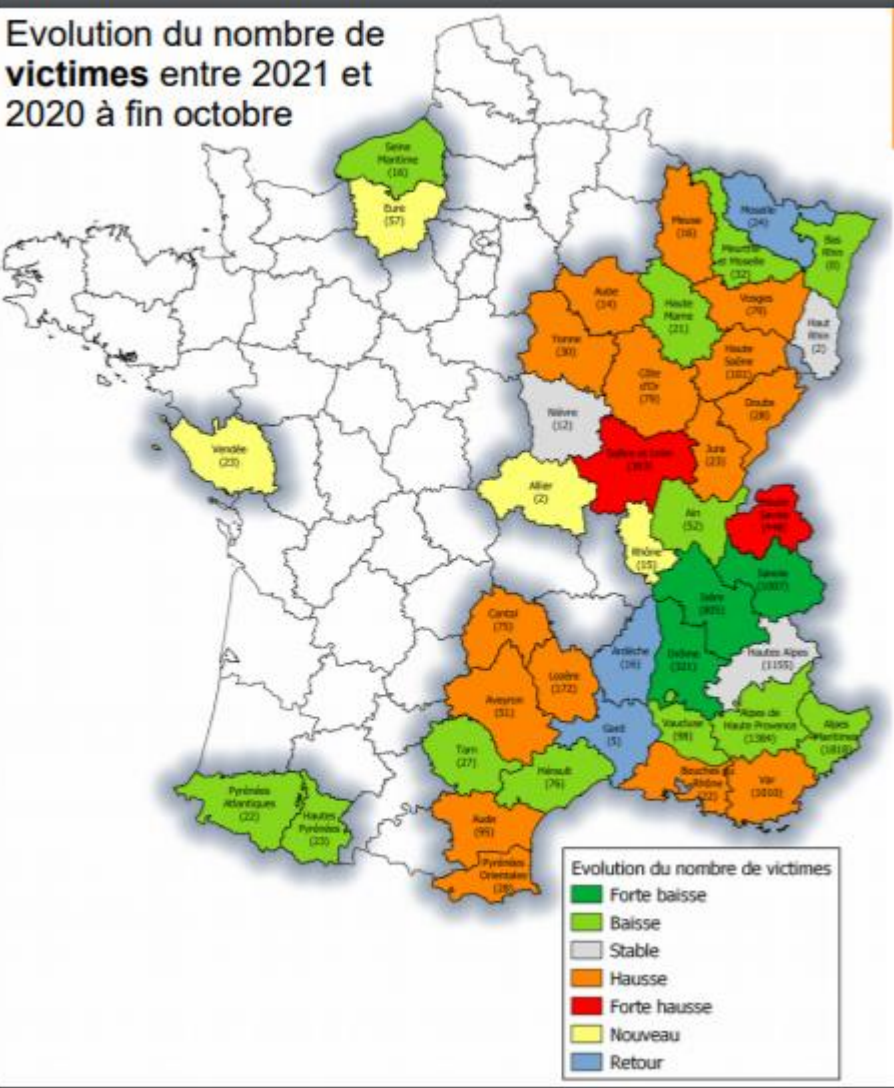
- \* In total 2 200 000 SEK in 2020 (about 220 000 Euro). Reindeer husbandry area not included.



# France

Source : DREAL AURA Nov. 2021

Evolution du nombre de victimes entre 2021 et 2020 à fin octobre



- \* Current population level:
  - \* In France, at the end of the winter 2020-2021, the wolf population is estimated at 624 adult individuals against 580 a year earlier (and 530 wolves at the end of the winter 2018-2019).
- \* Number of reported attacks per year:

	2004	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Observed attacks	621	1 279	2 332	2 476	2 756	3 228	3 595	3 790	3 730
Victims noted	2 557	4 691	8 756	9 112	9 932	11 993	12 055	12 487	11 849

- \* Financial damage:

	2018	2019	2020	Evolution 2018-2020
Protection of herds	€24,667,041	€26,842,039	€28,630,000	€3,962,959
Compensation for damages	€3,440,000	€3,070,000	€3,960,000	€520,000

# The impact of the large carnivores' expansion in the life of farmers

- \* Obligatory measures in France for the farmer to comply with
- \* Economic impact
- \* Social impact – increased isolation
- \* Psychological impact – day and night struggle



Crédit photo FX Emery / MRE





# Closing remarks

- \* Population of large carnivores: growing and extending its territory
- \* Attacks on livestock increasing
- \* Compensation needed increasing



## \* We need:

- \* A revision of the habitat directive
- \* Find ways to address the situation and properly compensate the farmers
- \* Abolish the agricultural guidelines of the European Commission which consider compensation for damage from large predators as state aid
- \* Find European funding other than the CAP to support breeders in the face of large carnivores

Crédit photo FX Emery / MRE



A man with a beard, wearing a striped shirt and blue shorts, is smiling while riding a large water buffalo. The buffalo is standing in a dry, grassy field with some trees in the background. The sky is a clear, warm orange-brown color. A semi-transparent orange banner is overlaid across the middle of the image.

Thank you for your attention !



[www.copa-cogeca.eu](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu)