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• Datum:	7 nov 2012 13:13
• Ämne:	Pressrelease: Bikingtour for Wolves and Meetingpoint for Wolves in front of the Finish Parliament 9./ 10. november

Pressrelease 7 nov 2012:

"Biking for Wolves" - Italian is biking 4000km across Sweden & Finland for the rights of the Wolves

Hello!

Right now, there is a International/Scandinavian Biking project going on, conducted by an Italian, who is engaged for an endangered species in Scandinavia: the Wolf. The project is conducted in cooperation with different organisations (such as Nature League) and companies and the Italian Gianluca Gaudenzi has now biked for almost 3500km and will go on for another at least 1500 towards Brussels and the EU commission. Between 9. and 11. he will be in Helsinki, arranging meeting points to discuss the dramatic situation of the endangered Wolf in Finland.

GET IN CONTACT WITH HIM; MEET HIM IN HELSINKI AND PRINT THE STORY OF THE WOLVES AND HIS STORY!

Gianluca Gaudenzi 0046-70-6180790

This message below was sent to the members of parliament and employees of ministries:

I urge you hereby to immediately stop the illegal AND permissible hunting of Wolves in Finland.

I will be present at a meeting point in front of the Finnish Parliament in Helsinki in order to create consciousness about the situation of Wolves in Finland 9. (afternoon) and 10. november (10.00-20.00) 2012.

In Stockholm, I will be present at a meeting point for the rights of the Wolves on 15. & 16. november 2012.

I have been conducting a Bikingtour "Biking for Wolves" for over 3 months now and have so far biked for over 3000 km, in order to fight for the rights of the Wolves to live. (see blogg www.bikingforwolves.ekolandia.se and homepage: www.ekolandia.se) I will stand before you to show you the insanity of your political decisions about permissible hunting of Wolves, I will discuss with people about the dramatic situation of Wolves in Finland and I will gather signatures for a petition against the legal and illegal hunting of Wolves that will be handed over to the EU-commission and the EU-commissionaire Jan Potocnik in Brussels by myself.

Even if presumably illegal hunting is to blame for the population collapse, the permissible hunting is against the EU-directives for endangered species and Finland has already been condemned by the EU-court:

[Judgment of the Court (Second Chamber) of 14 June 2007. Commission of the European Communities v Republic of Finland. Failure of a Member State to fulfil its obligations - Directive 92/43/EEC - Conservation of natural habitats - Wild fauna and flora - Wolf hunting. Case C-342/05. European Court reports 2007 Page I-04713]

A Member State which authorises the hunting on a preventive basis of the wolf (*Canis lupus*), an animal species appearing in Annex IV(a) of Directive 92/43 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, without it being established that the hunting is such as to prevent serious damage within the meaning of Article 16(1)(b) of that directive, fails to fulfil its obligations under Articles 12(1) and 16(1)(b) of that directive.

The situation of the Wolves in Finland is dramatic! Helsinki Sanomat writes 15 Oct 2010:

Finland's wolf population has collapsed in the last few years

Fresh report on number of packs and couples shows that in some areas wolves have disappeared completely

Finland's wolf population has collapsed.

The total number of wolves has fallen by more than a hundred compared with the peak years, and the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute's (RKTL) fresh report with regard to the number of wolf packs and couples occupying the country does not show any signs of recovery.

The wolf population seems to have decreased even from the estimate from last year.

The estimate with regard to the autumn's wolf territories is based on wildlife observations and a questionnaire sent to game management districts.

Researcher [Samuli Heikkinen](#) from RKTL emphasises that the figures will become more precise and complete with the coming of snow-cover. That is when the wolf counting will commence in earnest.

But the trend is heading downwards.

Whereas in 2005 there were an estimated 250 wolves in Finland, there were only 150-160 individuals left at the end of last year.

In the mid-1980s there were a minimum of 300 wolves in the country.

Based on the latest observations, there are 14 wolf packs in Finland, which translates to between 150 and 185 individuals.

"The number is more or less the same as last autumn, but if the cubs are included the population has decreased to some extent", Heikkinen explains.

The packs are approximately in the same areas as before, but from some areas they have vanished.

For example the packs that used to reside south of the city of Oulu have disappeared, as has the pack that used to live in the northern part of Satakunta Province.

"Even from the eastern province of Kainuu, where wolves are more commonly found, one pack seems to have vanished", Heikkinen says as he examines his map.

"The situation for the wolf is lamentable. The population has diminished dramatically from the peak years", maintains [Sami Niemi](#), a senior official at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

When the management plan for the country's wolf population was drawn up in 2005, the minimum number of packs for a sustainable situation was set at 25. At first the population did grow, and in 2007 as many as 37 packs were counted.

The latest population estimates show, however, that the management plan's objectives have not been reached.

Presumably illegal hunting is to blame for the population collapse.

"The population was on the increase when the so-called population management shootings were commenced. The permissible hunting was dimensioned conservatively with respect to the growth rate of the wolf population. At the same time, however, the illegal hunting of wolves is suspected of having increased. Presumably, in some areas people's tolerance limits were exceeded", Niemi analyses.

Now the hunting of wolves has been curbed and permits are granted only in exceptional cases where the animals have caused extensive damage or where there is a so-called "troublemaker" individual in the area.

For the current hunting season 22 permits have been granted, primarily in the reindeer husbandry areas and in Eastern Finland.

Last year 37 permits were approved.

Background information:

- > My name is Gianluca Gaudenzi. I conduct a biking project and I am
- > right on my way towards Helsinki and then Stockholm.
- >
- > "Biking for Wolves" is a bikingprojekt that started july 13, 2012 and
- > has been going on for over 3 months now. After more than 3000km it is
- > closing in on Helsinki and Stockholm for demonstrations in front of
- > these two countries parliaments. The demonstration in front of the
- > Finish parliament will be held on 9. and 10. of november, the one in
- > front of the Swedish parliament the 15. and 16. november 2012.

- > On my way, I have been in contact with newspapers, Tv- & radiostations.
- > Media has followed the tour ever since july.

Email to Finish Media 20121107

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> (see the homepage (partly in English/Swedish):
> <http://www.ekolandia.se/>,
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> and the blogg: (in English; via homepage or)
> [:http://www.bikingforwolves.ekolandia.se/](http://www.bikingforwolves.ekolandia.se/)
>
> as well as the in the email enclosed information material and
> pictures)
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> More background information:
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> The bikingtour "Biking for Wolves" has been highlighted and focused
> upon in many ways by different organisations, media and the public (see
> down below - just some of the published articles about the bikingtour):
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>
> in Finish:
> <http://www.radiorex.fi/paikallisuutiset/uutisarkisto/:newsid/36660>
(2012-10-26)

<<http://www.kainuunsanomat.fi/Kainuu/1194772092426/artikkeli/susipyorailija+paasi+perille+kuhmoon.html>>(2012-10-15)

<http://www.levinyt.fi/news.php?id=2754> (2012-10-05)

<<http://www.lapinkansa.fi/Lappi/1194766669638/artikkeli/susien+puolesta+pyorailija+polkee+kohti+inaria.html> (2012-09-11)

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> in Swedish:
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> <<http://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=78&artikel=5192065>
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> <<http://helahalsingland.se/ovanaker/edsbyn/1.4906635-biking-for-wolves>
> >,
>
> <http://www.jaktojagare.se/ute-och-cyklar-om-vargar>
>
> <http://www.kuriren.nu/nyheter/default.aspx?articleid=6521434>
>
> <http://www.rovdjursaktuellt.se/notiser-2012-07-10/>
>
> <http://www.nordulv.se> <http://www.nordulv.se/>
>
> <<http://pstese.blogspot.se/2012/07/cykla-for-vargar-biking-for-wolves.html>
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> The bikingtour started 13 juli 2012at lake Galven in Hälsningland and
> crosses over the Scandinavian peninsula heading at Kivikiekki in
> Norhtern Karelen in Finland. The tour is subdivided to at least 50
> distances and will be ended in Helsinki and Stockholm with a somewhat
> bigger demonstration.
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Email to Finish Media 20121107

- > The aim of the tour isto contribute to save the scandinavian wolf from
- > extinction (latest news in Dagens Nyheter, Swedens biggest newspaper
- > 12 september; "Wolftribe's growth stopped". But the tour also aims at
- > frame coexistence with the wolf, to collect resources to be able to better
- > protect and broaden the wolf territory in the whole of Scandinavia and
- > to develop a form ecotourism without disturbance of predators.
- >
- > The bikingtour has been focused upon in media. Several national and
- > international outdoor-magazines have shown interest in reporting about
- > the tour. There are idears and first steps are taken to cooperate on a
- > filmproduction about the Pessinkiwolves phaszinating story
- > (cooperation with a.o. natural documentary filmmaker Elke Duerr from New Mexiko).
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- > For contact:
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- > <http://www.ekolandia.se/>
- >
- > [<gianluca@ekolandia.se>](mailto:gianluca@ekolandia.se)
- >
- >
- > +46-(0)706-180 790
- >
- > If you want to support the tour:
- >
- > from abroad: IBAN: SE6230000000030690191383 (mark "Biking for Wolves")
- >
- > from Sweden:Bankaccount: NordeaBIC/SWIFT: NDEASESS
- >
- > Clearingnumber: 3069Bankaccount: 0191383 (mark "Biking for Wolves")
- >