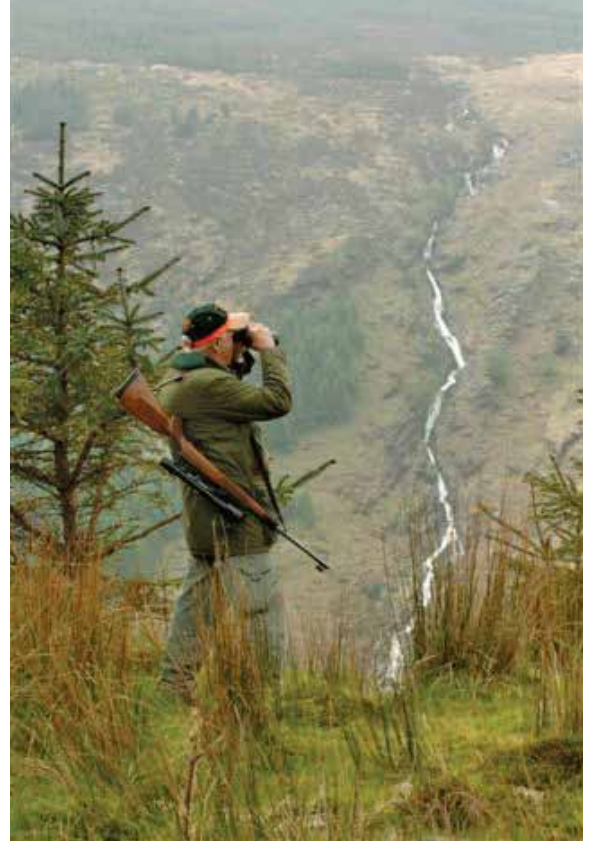


Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU

# Manifesto 2009 - 2014



# FOREWORD



As there is clearly a positive wave of support at the European level for countryside activities, and in particular, for hunting, FACE wishes to outline the aspirations of the 7,000,000 European citizens who we represent. Within this *Manifesto*, we set down our strategic direction and outline our policies so that you, as Member of the European Parliament, may support our efforts in not only preserving nature but also protecting the rights of those millions of European men and women who use, as hunters, anglers or farmers, biodiversity in a sustainable way. Our *Manifesto* is also a source of information that you, Member of the European Parliament, may refer to when considering the future of our natural and cultural heritage.

Today, there remain many threats to biodiversity, in general, and to sustainable hunting in specific, such as the degradation of natural habitats, the disappearance of wild species, the negative impact of alien invasive species on European fauna and flora, and even the radicalisation of animal rights groups towards wildlife. The contribution of the people using nature and wildlife sustainably is absolutely essential to take on the current challenges for biodiversity. I have complete trust in our Members, and our team in Brussels and Strasbourg, to work towards pragmatic solutions that favour both nature conservation and respect for the countryside and its traditions. For this, we must keep promoting cooperation with our partners and dialogue with all the stakeholders, especially you, Member of the European Parliament. Nature conservation through sustainable use of renewable resources is a concept which is now widely accepted at all levels, and FACE trusts that this will continue to be the case both in the European Parliament and European Union policy-making institutions.

As FACE President, I would like to invite you, Member of the European Parliament, to work with us throughout the 2009 – 2014 Parliamentary term to promote issues related to sustainable hunting and biodiversity conservation.

Gilbert de TURCKHEIM  
FACE President



**Where Members  
of the European  
Parliament can  
help hunters  
make a difference**

**ACTING FOR  
BIODIVERSITY**

**RESPECT FOR  
WILDLIFE**

**COOPERATION FOR  
CONSERVATION**

**SUSTAINABILITY  
FOR THE FUTURE**

**REGARD FOR  
CULTURAL  
HERITAGE**





## I

### SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE FUTURE

**B**ecause of the significant amount of attention being paid to the downturn in Europe's economy, the challenge for Members of the European Parliament will be to strike the right balance between economic stability and the protection of our natural heritage. Concern for the environment should not be sidelined in favour of measures which could have a negative effect on wildlife and its habitat. The utilisation of renewable natural resources, which include wild animals (including fish), and plants (mushrooms, berries, medicinal herbs) must remain sustainable.

It is an important responsibility for Members of the European Parliament, both at European and national levels, to conserve our wildlife for future generations. This will only be achieved through the integrated management of nature. It will, therefore, be necessary to take into account the multiple uses of our natural environment, in particular farming, forestry and infrastructure development, to ensure harmonised approaches that maintain social and ecological integrity.

FACE, on behalf of 7,000,000 European hunters who we represent, encourages Members of the European Parliament to consider that the sustainable use of renewable natural resources, in conjunction with global environmental objectives, economic considerations and the needs of society together contribute to a triangle of purpose which should be integrated into EU environmental policy.





## II ACTING FOR BIODIVERSITY

**B**iodiversity loss will continue unless we act now. Hunters know the reality of this and, through their efforts, incentives are being created to improve habitats Europe-wide which will help in species conservation. Hunters are on the frontline when acting to alleviate the considerable multitude of threats to biodiversity which include the destruction of habitats, the spread of invasive alien species, and climate change.

Habitat shrinkage and degradation are threatening the very existence of many species of flora and fauna across Europe and, indeed, the world. It is in the interest of the hunting community to maintain suitable habitats for wildlife. Hedgerows and arable fields are managed for small game, inland ponds, wet grasslands and salt marshes for wildfowl, and woodlands and upland areas for deer. It is recognised by many, including conservationists, that invasive alien species have a negative impact on biodiversity. Thus hunters must be key partners in the implementation of sound and practical strategies. The impact of climate change will continue to be a significant additional threat to biodiversity.

FACE, on behalf of 7,000,000 European hunters who we represent, supports the target of halting biodiversity loss by 2010 not only as a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) but also as a concerned hunters and conservationists organisation. FACE urges Members of the European Parliament to consider the pivotal role of hunters in conserving biodiversity when creating and implementing legislation.





### III RESPECT FOR WILDLIFE

The realisation that animals still exist in their natural environment is becoming lost to a highly urbanised population which has become out of touch with the realities of nature and wildlife. On the other hand hunters, through their interaction with nature and wildlife, understand the reality of human intervention with wild animals. Animals are, as a matter of fact, a living resource and their utilisation, whether through hunting, fishing or farming, is an important aspect of the rural economy. For these reasons, hunters strive for the most efficient means to minimise avoidable suffering by animals.

Hunters take their role in society and environmental obligations very seriously, dedicating much of their time to the improvement of habitats, welfare of wild animals, and attending courses and training sessions on a wide variety of related subjects. All EU Member States have stringent hunting exams or tests before a hunter takes to the field. These are often a combination of practical skills including shooting and also classroom learning. Thereafter, they remain committed to advancing their knowledge of conservation and hunting.

FACE, on behalf of 7,000,000 European hunters who we represent, requests that Members of the European Parliament recognise that hunters take animal welfare seriously and that legislation should be based on science and not emotion or perception.





## IV COOPERATION FOR CONSERVATION

There is a need for interaction between all stakeholders. Cooperation at all levels is imperative if we are to meet the challenges posed by for example, the global character of naturally occurring phenomena such as bird migration, the increase in numbers of large carnivores and the effects of avian influenza. Typically, many migratory bird species would benefit enormously from international cooperation leading to an improvement in their conservation status.

FACE seeks to establish the widest consensus amongst its Member associations, conservation stakeholders, with the institutions of the EU and other international organisations for the betterment of nature. Cooperation with its national Member associations allows FACE to create strong well-organised networks which can react to situations with a rapid exchange of information and ideas allowing it to take the best approach towards ensuring the conservation of biodiversity. Hunters and other nature conservationists have had their continuing share of problems but through cooperation and constructive dialogue common solutions have been found to contain the degradation of our natural heritage.

FACE, on behalf of 7,000,000 European hunters who we represent, in association with its Members, has the ability to speak with a single voice. FACE, as the recognised representative body for hunters in Europe, welcomes continued cooperation with Members of the European Parliament.





## V

### REGARD FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE

*“... cultural diversity forms a common heritage of humanity and should be cherished and preserved for the benefit of all”*  
(UNESCO 2005)

**H**unting makes up a rich mix of traditions and culture. Threats to it are more than just a menace to a single rural activity but rather jeopardise an invaluable source of cultural inspiration that over the centuries has added to, and enriched, our common heritage – art, gastronomy, music and literature. Across the different regions of Europe, there is a variety and diversity of traditions that contribute to this cultural inheritance. To threaten this socio-cultural tradition would be a mistake, as it is an important element that both unifies and unites not only the 7,000,000 European hunters but all people, men and women, who have their passion, interests or employment linked with hunting activities. Hunters, both urban and rural, are important stakeholders in the countryside and the activities that they pursue, whether hunting and conservation, are vital elements that contribute significantly to the social and cultural fabric of rural Europe.

FACE, on behalf of 7,000,000 European hunters who we represent, urges Members of the European Parliament to be conscious of the undeniable, rich, and varied cultural aspects that sustain hunting traditions and, for this reason, the pursuit of rural activities especially the diversity of hunting methods following the principles of sustainable use of resources.



## WHERE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

1. Declare support for hunting and conservation.
2. Support legislation based on the best available scientific evidence and not on emotion and perception.
3. Liaise and consult with concerned stakeholders.
4. Consider that regulations should be adapted to national and local situations, particularly for the countryside.
5. Actively join the Sustainable Hunting Intergroup

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# WHAT IS FACE?

The Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE) is an international non-profit making, non-governmental organisation that acts in the interests of over 7,000,000 European hunters.

FACE was founded in 1977 and has its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

It represents its 36 *Full Members* who are national hunters' associations within the Member States of the European Union and other Council of Europe countries, as well as its 5 *Associate Members*.

FACE's main objectives are:

- To **PROMOTE** hunting, in accordance with the principle of wise and sustainable use of natural resources as a tool for rural development, conservation of wildlife and biodiversity and for protection, improvement and restoration of wildlife habitats.
- To **ADVOCATE** for and **REPRESENT** the collective interests of its Members within both European and international institutions in all issues related to hunting, including wildlife management, conservation, firearms, animal health, game meat hygiene, ethics.

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