



"Sustainable Hunting" Intergroup elects MEP Véronique MATHIEU President at inaugural meeting

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During the September plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, FACE took the opportunity to organise, together with MEP Veronique MATHIEU (EPP, FR), the constitutive meeting of the Intergroup on "Sustainable Hunting, Biodiversity, Countryside Activities, Agriculture and Forestry".

At this inaugural meeting, MEP Veronique MATHIEU was elected unanimously President of the "Sustainable Hunting, Biodiversity, Countryside Activities, Agriculture & Forestry" Intergroup for the next five years. This election is excellent news for hunting and the countryside as V. Mathieu is a member of the EPP, was first Vice-President of the previous "Sustainable Hunting" Intergroup, has done excellent work during the last Parliament, and has strong support from the highest levels of the French government.

MEP Luis Manuel CAPOULAS SANTOS (S&D, PT), MEP Markus PIEPER (EPP, DE), MEP Robert STURDY (ECR, UK), MEP Béla GLATTFELDER (EPP, HU), MEP Sergio BERLATO (EPP, IT), MEP Elisabeth KÖSTINGER (EPP, AT) and MEP William The Earl of DARTMOUTH (EFD, UK) were elected Vice-Presidents of the Intergroup and will make up the provisional Bureau. The composition of the Intergroup's Bureau might be enriched by other VIPs dependent upon further political and regional demands.

"This is a great day for the European hunting and conservation community", said Gilbert de TURCKHEIM, President of Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE), "With the support of already 100 MEPs from nearly all EU Member States across the political groups, it is time to restart our important work here at the European Parliament. The continuation of the Intergroup will ensure that the voices of European hunters and conservationists are heard." He explained the function of FACE as the Federation for the European national hunting and conservation associations is to act as a bridge between them and the European Institutions. "For the upcoming political term, intense collaboration between the national hunting associations and the MEPs will be strengthened in order to ensure the continuation of the flow of information from rural society to the European Institutions and vice versa," Gilbert de TURCKHEIM pointed out.

FACE will continue to work closely with the MEPs. Since 1985, it has provided the Secretariat of the European Parliament's "Sustainable Hunting" Intergroup, a platform for contacts between the EP and civil society. Following the welcome cocktail for the newly elected MEPs in July, FACE was keen to continue with the Intergroup as soon as possible in order to have a working platform for all political questions regarding sustainable hunting, biodiversity, countryside activities, agriculture and forestry. The next meeting will take place in the European Parliament in Strasbourg during the Plenary Session in November.

For further questions, please contact:

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Since 1985, the **Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU** has provided the Secretariat for the "Sustainable Hunting, Biodiversity, Countryside Activities, Agriculture & Forestry" Intergroup at the European Parliament. FACE works closely with MEPs from different political groups, who have a common interest in promoting wildlife conservation, sustainable hunting and fishing, and management of the countryside and its traditions.

Contact: For more information about FACE and the Intergroup, visit www.face.eu or contact christine.roedlach@face.eu

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