

Intergroup
SUSTAINABLE HUNTING, BIODIVERSITY & COUNTRYSIDE ACTIVITIES
Intergroupe
CHASSE DURABLE, BIODIVERSITÉ & ACTIVITÉS RURALES
Intergruppe
NACHHALTIGE JAGD, BIODIVERSITÄT & LÄNDLICHE AKTIVITÄTEN
Intergruppo
CACCIA SOSTENIBILE, BIODIVERSITÀ & ATTIVITÀ RURALI
Intergupo
CAZA SOSTENIBLE, BIODIVERSIDAD & ACTIVIDADES RURALES

Meeting on the 18th of November 2008
“Damages by wild species”

MEP

BERTOLOZZI, Paolo (EPP-ED, IT)
DESS, Albert (EPP-ED, DE)
EBNER, Michl (EPP-ED, IT)
HELMER, Roger (NI, UK)
LEHTINEN, Lasse (PSE, FI)
MATHIEU, Veronique (EPP-ED, FR)

MAYER, Hans-Peter (EPP-ED, DE)
PIEPER, Markus (EPP-ED, DE)
SCHIERHUBER, Agnes (EPP-ED, AT)
STURDY, Robert (EPP-ED, UK)

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Apologised

BRAGHETTO, Iles (EPP-ED, IT)
LULLING, Astrid (EPP-ED, LU)
BERLATO, Sergio (EPP-ED, IT)

KOHLÍCEK, Jaromír (GUE/NGL, CZ)

Experts

ESCLOPÉ, Alwin (FNC)
BEDARIDA, Gérard (ANCGG)
BLAZ, KRZE (HAS)
GARIBARDI, Elena (EBCD)

Assistants

ENTZMINGER, Catherine (V. MATHIEU)
JURISIC, Boba (M. EBNER)
PICHLER, Franz (P. RÜBIG)

SCHULTE-DERNE, Sebastian (H-P.
MEYER)
OSKOTSKI, Konstantin (H-P. MEYER)

Secretariat

de TURCKHEIM, Gilbert (President FACE)
de ROUBAIX, Adrien (FACE)
Dr. LECOQ, Yves (FACE)

RÖDLACH, Christine (FACE)
MIKOS, Emanuelle (ELO)
MARGHELIS, Alexandre (ELO)

1. Introduction and opening remarks

M. EBNER, President Co-ordinator of the Intergroup, opens the meeting and welcomes all present and represented MEPs, as well as invited speakers, experts and guests. After his opening remarks, Co-President V. MATHIEU takes over the chair. She welcomes the speakers and points out that there should not be expected to be given the final solution by raising this theme in the Intergroup. It is however a good opportunity to show the variety of damages that can be caused by wild species. Then she gives the floor to two guest speakers.

2. Damages by wild species

In his presentation, B. GUIBERT of the French Hunters' Federation FNC presented the situation in his country, where hunting bags for ungulates (Red and Roe deer plus Wild boar) have virtually increased tenfold over a 30 year period, with a parallel strong increase in damages caused to farming and forestry. He pointed out, however, that hunting also generates a significant income for forest owners (72.5 million €annually) and that hunters pay, directly or indirectly, the bill for damages to farming.

Professor H. NAVEAU, representing the *European Landowners Organisation* (ELO), focused on the aspect of damages to forestry and advocated a reduction of hoofed game populations, although the situation may strongly differ from one Member State to another, and even within one country. In their interventions, several participants did put these positions in a wider perspective and stressed the need to find realistic balances, whilst also taking into account the expectations of the (mainly urban) public at large regarding wildlife.

The detailed presentations are available upon request at the Secretariat of the Intergroup.

In the discussion that followed the two PowerPoint-presentations, R. STURDY underlined that the increase of costs are a real factor and that it drives hunting to exclusivity that is just affordable for wealthy persons. One should however consider that a lot of estates cannot survive without hunting.

V. MATHIEU pointed out that the Modulation in the CAP would open new possibilities for the financing of hunting and agriculture. There has been chosen a good approach on that.

Following the Intergroup meeting, FACE President Gilbert de TURCKHEIM opened the exhibition set up in the European Parliament in cooperation between V. MATHIEU and FACE, illustrating in an attractive manner the possible interactions between over-abundant wildlife and different human activities (farming, forestry, animal breeding, fisheries, and traffic). A great number of visitors were so able to better understand the need to seek, through a process of dialogue, solutions to re-establish the balance between sometimes contradictory interests, including those of hunters.

3. Any other business

No other issues are raised

4. Next meeting

V. MATHIEU thanks all guests and participants, and ends the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for **January 2009 in Strasbourg** .

Christine RÖDLACH
for the *IG Secretariat*