

OBJECTIVES

<p>PROMOTE</p> <p>the role of hunting and other forms of sustainable use of wild species for biodiversity, wildlife management and rural development</p>	<p>DISCUSS</p> <p>current issues related to wildlife management and rural development dealt with by the EP</p>
<p>DEFEND</p> <p>the interests of 7 million hunters and many other countryside people, so contributing to the strengthening of the democratic legitimacy of the EP</p>	<p>INITIATE</p> <p>helpful discussion in the EP on national/regional issues relating to biodiversity and the countryside</p>
<p>AFFIRM</p> <p>the importance of hunting as an activity with significant socio-economic impact in the EU (total turnover EUR 5 billion/annum & 120,000 full-time jobs)</p>	<p>ACCESS</p> <p>ensure access to reliable databases on wildlife management, conservation and countryside activities</p>



www.countdown2010.net

SUPPORT



Since 1985, FACE (*Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU*) provides the *Secretariat* for the Intergroup:

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www.face.eu

FACE, currently representing 7 million hunters in 36 European countries, promotes hunting in accordance with the principle of wise and sustainable use of natural resources, for conservation and management of wildlife, for the protection, creation and restoration of habitats, for Biodiversity and as a tool for rural development.

Since 1987, FACE is a member of the *World Conservation Union IUCN*.



For countryside related topics, the Intergroup receives support from the *European Landowners Organisation ELO*, which represents and advises millions of landowners, land managers and rural entrepreneurs throughout Europe.

www.elo.org

Intergroup

Sustainable Hunting Biodiversity & Countryside Activities



at the
European Parliament

INTRODUCING THE INTERGROUP

Intergroups consist of MEPs from different Political Groups with a common interest in a particular subject. They are not organs of the EP and do not express opinions on its behalf. The "Hunting" Intergroup, created in 1985, is one of the oldest and most active in the EP.

For this 2004-2009 term of the EP, the Intergroup needed to be reconstituted and this was formally achieved in December 2004 thanks to the support of some 150 MEPs.

The Intergroup now bears the official name "Sustainable Hunting, Biodiversity & Countryside Activities", which reflects better its conservation goals and the fact that most of its Members are not hunters.



MEP M. EBNER chairing a "Sustainable Hunting, Countryside & Biodiversity" Intergroup meeting.

ACTIVITIES

The Intergroup deals with issues for which the EP is competent in the fields of hunting (covering all country-sport disciplines), wildlife management, angling, forestry and nature conservation, taking account of public and wild animal health and welfare. Other topics are often considered.

Meetings take place during Plenary Sessions of the EP in Strasbourg. The Intergroup may, by consensus, decide to adopt a position, statement, declaration, resolution or recommendation or to take any other initiative deemed appropriate.

Contributions made by the Intergroup to the work of the EP include

- Sustainable Hunting Initiative
- Guidance document on hunting under the "Birds" Directive
- 2004 Agreement between FACE and BirdLife International
- free movement of goods and persons (in the "Firearms" Directive)
- public health (in the "Game Meat" Regulations)

Other issues dealt with by the Intergroup include trapping, management of large carnivores under the "Habitats" Directive, invasive alien species, etc.

ORGANISATION

The Intergroup is composed of all those MEPs willing to

Promote

- wildlife conservation
- sustainable hunting & fishing
- sustainable management of the countryside and its traditions

Endorse

- the *World Conservation Union* IUCN Policy Statement on Sustainable Use of Wild Living Resources

The Intergroup wants to be as representative as possible of the political spectrum and of the different Member States.

BUREAU

A Bureau consisting of one President-Coordinator, one First Co-President and an unspecified number of Co-Presidents meets regularly at the proposal of its President-Coordinator, in order to prepare the annual programme, to deal with urgent issues, as well as to appoint the chairpersons for the meetings.

President-Coordinator:
Michl EBNER MEP (It)

First Co-President:
Véronique MATHIEU MEP (Fr)