

A NEW VISION FOR THE BIRDS DIRECTIVE & THE POSITIVE ROLE OF HUNTING

23 SEPTEMBER 2014, 09.00 – 16.30

Committee of the Regions, Room JDE52,
101 Rue Belliard, Brussels

INTRODUCTION

35 years ago the EU's oldest piece of nature legislation - the EU Birds Directive - came into effect. It is one of the most important pieces of nature legislation, creating a comprehensive scheme of protection for all wild bird species naturally occurring in the Union. FACE has engaged with this legislation since the very beginning: FACE was founded in 1977 by national hunting associations to take part in the process of shaping the directive by providing hunters' extensive knowledge of wildlife and habitats. And since those early days, FACE has remained very close to its roots and its commitment to bird conservation by continuing to work on issues related to birds and in particular migratory birds. For example, as a part of this work, FACE Members were integral in the establishment of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) in the 1990s.

To mark this special occasion FACE will hold a conference in Brussels on 23 September 2014. We will use this opportunity to reflect on the history of the conservation of birds by contemplating the implementation of the directive itself and by highlighting actions taken by hunters. On the same occasion we will also be marking 10 years of the BirdLife International-FACE Agreement signed in 2004. The conference will have a comprehensive agenda featuring high-level speakers from EU institutions, NGOs, hunting and other conservation stakeholders discussing actions to conserve our wild birds.

The first session will reflect on the history of the directive until present day and some main elements of the directive. **The second session** will showcase the opportunities for successful partnerships between hunters and other conservationists. This will highlight some of the diverse conservation actions being undertaken by hunters every day, from international to local level. **The final session** will feature a diverse panel of experts discussing ideas with the audience on how the Birds Directive can deliver its objectives in line with evolving EU nature policy and the aspirations of key stakeholders.



AGENDA

09.30 – 10.00

Opening

Welcome

Gilbert de Turckheim (FACE) & Karl-Heinz Florenz MEP

Keynote Address

Janez Potočnik European Commissioner for the Environment

10.00 – 13.00

Session 1: International engagement for conservation of birds

Chair - Cy Griffin, FACE

The Birds Directive 1979 to 2014 - Yves Lecocq, FACE

International conservation for migratory waterbirds - John Swift, FACE

The Birds Directive and habitat protection - Ariel Brunner,
Birdlife International

Questions (10 mins)

Coffee Break

Science basis: Science basis: the role of science in informing the setting of dates for hunting seasons – Prof. Colin Galbraith

Legal issues: National interpretation of the Birds Directive - Charles Lagier, FNC

Integration: Linking the Birds Directive to the wider countryside and the importance of farmland ecosystems – Antonino Morabito, Legambiente

Socio-cultural: Birds Directive Article 9§1.c – example of falconry – Prof. Robert Kenward, Vice-chair, for Europe, of IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group

Questions (10 mins)

Lunch Break & Networking



14.30 – 15.30

Session 2: The positive role of hunting

Chair: Cy Griffin, FACE

Partnership success: Boleybrack Mountain Habitat Project – David Scallan & John Carslake, NARGC, Ireland

Hunting as a positive force for the conservation of a declining species: The case of the Grey Partridge – Benoît Chevron, FNC

Restoration: Strategies for bird conservation in Finland – Christian Krogell, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland

Data collection: The role of hunting associations in widening the knowledge base of huntable species. Michele Sorrenti, Federaccia, Italy

Questions (10 mins)

Coffee break

15.50 – 16.30

Session 3: Future challenges and opportunities for the Birds Directive

Panel discussion and conclusions

Chair: John Swift, FACE

Opening address: Pia Bucella, Director of DG ENV B - Natural Capital

KEY LINKS

FACE: www.face.eu

The FACE webpage on Birds Directive: <http://www.face.eu/about-us/eu-laws/birds-directive>

Hunters for Conservation: <http://www.face.eu/nature-conservation/hunters-for-conservation>

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WHAT IS FACE?

Established in 1977, FACE represents the interests of Europe's **7 million hunters** as an international non-profit-making nongovernmental organisation (NGO).

FACE is made up of its **Members: national hunters' associations** from **36 European countries** including the EU 28. FACE also has 4 Associate Members and has its Secretariat in Brussels.

FACE upholds the principle of sustainable use, has been a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 1987, and more recently of Wetlands International. FACE works with its partners on a range of hunting-related issues, from international conservation agreements to local implementations with the aim of sustaining hunting across Europe.

