

# 2016



## ANNUAL REPORT

The Federation of Associations  
for Hunting and Conservation of the EU

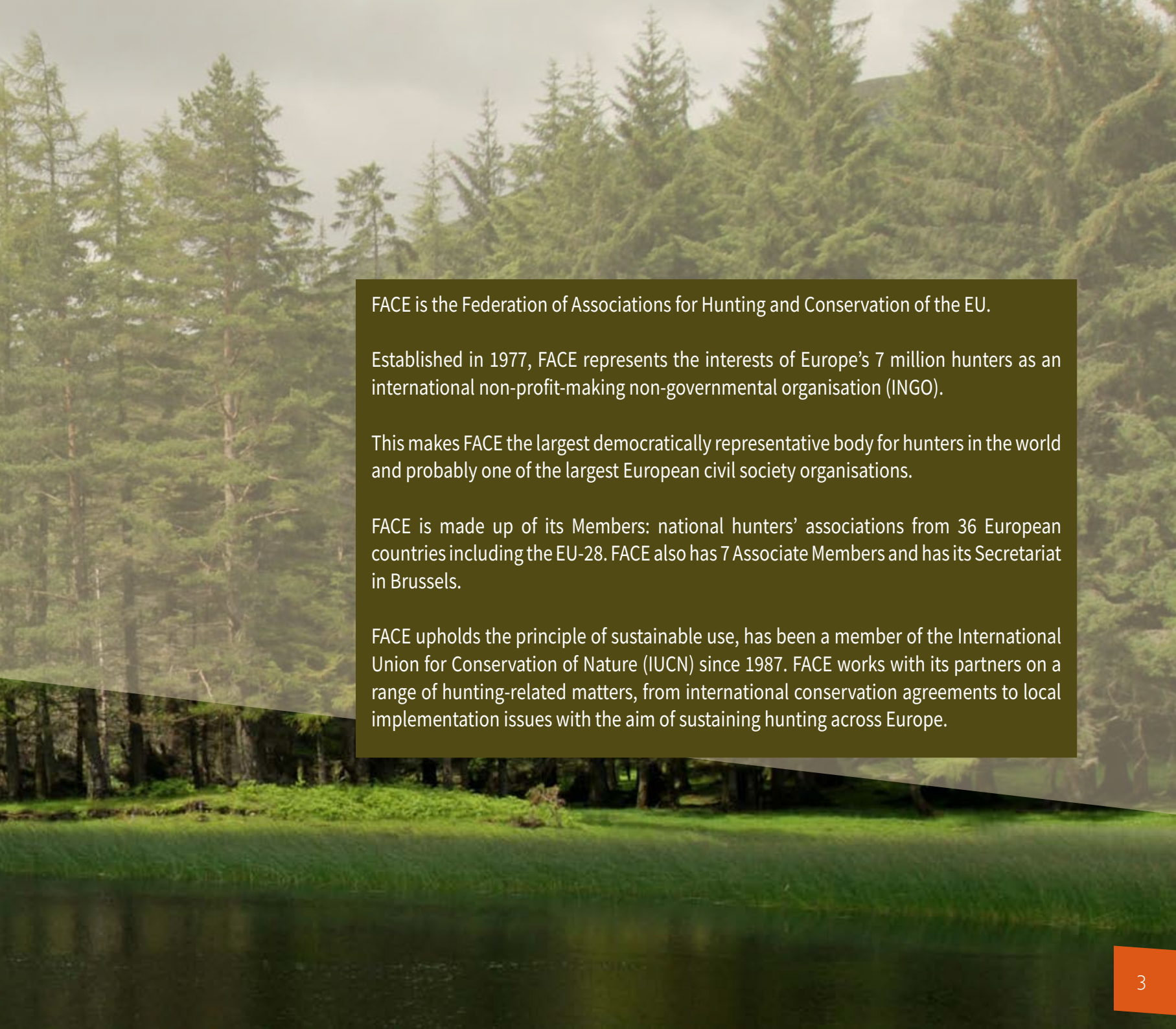




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FACE is the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU.

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

This makes FACE the largest democratically representative body for hunters in the world and probably one of the largest European civil society organisations.

FACE is made up of its Members: national hunters' associations from 36 European countries including the EU-28. FACE also has 7 Associate Members and has its Secretariat in Brussels.

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

# PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



FACE can look back on some great successes in 2016. These include the development of one of the pillars of our Federation, the FACE Biodiversity Manifesto (BDM), which demonstrates the engagement of European hunters for biodiversity conservation.

The FACE BDM Working Group made tremendous progress with the new 2016 BDM Report and the BDM website to be launched in 2017.

Further success stories include the positive outcome of the Intergroup “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside” of the European

Parliament, which discussed with policy makers the most important issues affecting hunting. In 2016, the Intergroup held four events organised by FACE. This means that the defense and promotion of hunting in Europe today is increasingly exercised by actively engaging the institutions of the European Union in Brussels.

On the 13 July 2016, the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) of the European Parliament voted on the revision of the EU Firearms Directive. The new text originally proposed by the European Commission angered hunters and sport shooters throughout Europe. In 2016, FACE and its member organisations mobilized the arguments of legal firearms users and to preserve the already strict European framework that guarantees the adequate control of firearms.

On the 7 December 2016, EU Commissioners confirmed the next steps of the Fitness Check of the Birds and Habitats Directives. The European Commission aims to develop an Action Plan to improve implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives. FACE was actively involved in all stages of the consultation process. Going forward, FACE will be urging the European Commission to pursue a more effective implementation of the directives and will continue to call on the EU for more recognition of hunters in their role in delivering environmental objectives.

In close collaboration with Safari Club International (SCI) and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), FACE participated as observer in the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on 4 October 2016. FACE is pleased with the outcome in a time of increasing unscientific attacks on and misconceptions about hunting by some interest groups in a number of Western countries.

This positive and constructive cooperation between FACE, SCI and CIC is fundamental to me and I will continue to actively promote it. Similar achievements were made at the World Conservation Congress of the International Union of the Conservation of Nature in September 2016, where FACE and its partners successfully tackled a range of problematic motions for European hunters.

However, the real strength of FACE is the unity and cohesion of its Members in promoting the sustainable and responsible use of natural resources, traditions and the rights of 7 million hunters, and their families.

I am proud to bring to you an overview of what the FACE Secretariat delivered for European hunters in 2016 with the hope that this will contribute to strengthen the sense of belonging every hunter should feel in regards to FACE.

Dr. Michl Ebner



# THE FACE SECRETARIAT

The FACE Team is based in Brussels and makes up the Secretariat.

This team combines a passion for hunting and conservation with expertise in a range of key areas to protect hunting in Europe.

## 2016 STAFF

### SECRETARY GENERAL

Filippo Segato

### ADMINISTRATION

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*Public Affairs Officer*

Mayssa Vande Vyvre

*Communication Officer*





# FACE MEMBERS

## FULL MEMBERS

Albania: *Federata e Gjuetarëve të Shqipërisë*

Austria: *Zentralstelle Österreichischer Landesjagdverbände*

Belgium: *Royal Saint-Hubert Club de Belgique / Hubertus Vereniging Vlaanderen vzw*

Bosnia & Herzegovina: *Lovački Savez Herceg-Bosne (LSHB)*

Bosnia & Herzegovina: *Lovački Savez Republike Srpska (LSRS)*

Bosnia & Herzegovina: *Savez Lovačkih organizacija BiH (SLOBiH)*

Bulgaria: *Съюз на ловците и риболовците в България*

Croatia: *Hrvatski Lovački Savez*

Cyprus: *Κυπριακή Ομοσπονδία Κυνήγιου Kai Διathphshς Αγριας Ζωης*

Czech Republic: *Ceskomoravská Myslivecká Jednota*

Denmark: *Danmarks Jægerforbund*

Estonia: *Eesti Jahimeeste Selts*

Finland: *Suomen Metsästäjälitto / Finlands Jägarförbund*

France: *Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs*

Germany: *Deutscher Jagdverband e.V.*

Greece: *Κυνητική Ομοσπονδία Ελλάδος*

Hungary: *Országos Magyar Vadászkamara*

Hungary: *Országos Magyar Vadászati Védegylet*

Ireland: *FACE Ireland c/o National Association of Regional Game Councils (NARGC)*

Italy: *FACE Italia*

Latvia: *Latvijas Mednieku Asociācija*

Lithuania: *Lietuvos Medžiotojų ir Žvejų Draugija*

Luxembourg: *Fédération Saint-Hubert des Chasseurs du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg asbl*

Malta: *Federazzjoni Kaċċaturi Nassaba Konservazzjonisti (FKNK)*

Montenegro: *Lovački Savez Crne Gore*

Netherlands: *Koninklijke Nederlandse Jagersvereniging*

Norway: *Norges Jeger- og Fiskerforbund*

Poland: *Polski Związek Łowiecki*

Portugal: *Federação Portuguesa de Caça (FENCAÇA)*

Romania: *Asociația Generală a Vânătorilor și Pescarilor Sportivi (AGVPS)*

Serbia: *Lovački Savez Srbije*

Slovakia: *Slovenská poľovnícka komora*

Slovakia: *Slovenský Poľovnícky Zväz*

Slovenia: *Lovska zveza Slovenije*

Spain: *Oficina Nacional de la Caza (ONC)*

Sweden: *Svenska Jägareförbundet*

Switzerland: *JagdSchweiz / ChasseSuisse / CacciaSvizzera / CatschaSvizra*

Turkey: *Türkiye Atıcılık ve Avcılık Federasyonu*

United Kingdom: *FACE UK: British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), Countryside Alliance*

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

*European Association of the Civil Commerce of Weapons (AECAC)*

*Association of European Manufacturers of Sporting Firearms (ESFAM)*

*Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF)*

*The European Bowhunting Federation (EBF) Conservation Force*

## OTHER MEMBERS

*Research Partner*

*European Institute for the Management of Wild Birds and their Habitats (OMPO)*

*Honorary Presidents*

*Giovanni BANA, Gilbert de TURCKHEIM*

*Honorary Members*

*Jochen BORCHERT, John GARDINER, Martin HØISGAARD, Torstein MOLAND, John Anthony SWIFT*

## OBSERVER

*European Association of Traditional Hunts (AECT)*



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\* Non-voting members

FACE works with its Members, partners and the EU institutions to facilitate understanding, action and exchange through regular meetings in Member States, as well as in the European Parliament and Commission.

FACE is nowhere without its Members.

FACE Members encompass the expertise, knowledge, structures and influence that make up European hunting. FACE Members are the national hunting associations from 36 countries including the 28 EU Member States as well as other Council of Europe countries.

# THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INTERGROUP “BIODIVERSITY, HUNTING, COUNTRYSIDE”



Known as the “Hunting Intergroup”, the European Parliament Intergroup “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside” was created in 1985 and is one of the oldest and most active parliamentary platforms.

With some 110 actively supporting MEPs the Intergroup promotes the role of hunting and other forms of sustainable use of natural resources. FACE has provided the Secretariat for this intergroup since 1985 while the European Landowners’ Organisation serves as Co-secretariat.

It tackles topics related to biodiversity, wildlife management, rural development and forestry and discusses current subjects whilst building the bridge between civil society and decision makers.

The activities of the Intergroup are run by a Bureau who is responsible for setting the themes and providing overall guidance; MEP Karl-Heinz Florenz is the President of the Intergroup. He is economist and agricultural master. Member of the European Parliament since 1989 and was re-elected in 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014.

*“We are facing many challenges regarding biodiversity, sustainable hunting and wildlife management as well as climate change and rural development. This Intergroup serves as the key stakeholder platform within the European Parliament, enabling open cross-political discussions between decision-makers and experts, aiming to affirm the significant role of rural actors and the socio-economic importance of countryside activities.” - MEP Karl-Heinz Florenz*

The Bureau is also constituted of three Vice-Presidents: MEP Renata Briano, MEP Bendt Bendtsen and MEP James Nicholson, and a Secretary General MEP Annie Schreijer-Pierik.

In 2016 FACE organised four meetings of the Intergroup. Here are some highlights:

## 26 January 2016: Wildlife, use it or lose it? Meeting on the EU’s strategic objectives for CITES CoP17



*“Trophy hunting is an important economic driver for our country”, said Namibian Minister for Environment and Tourism, **Hon. Pohamba Shifeta**. “Our model empowers local communities to sustainably manage wildlife with economic incentives directly derived from the governance of hunting. In this regard, initiatives to ban trophy hunting not only represent an unacceptable modern form of moral colonialism, but will have detrimental effects on our local communities and our wildlife, ending in the proliferation of poaching. We must all strive to uphold the benefits of CITES as an appropriate regulatory tool ensuring the sustainable use of wildlife.”*

**27 January 2016:**  
**The Mid-Term Review: The Role of Hunters and Rural Stakeholders in Financing Biodiversity Conservation**

**Dr Justin Irvine** from the James Hutton Institute: “Research from the EU-funded Hunting for Sustainability (HUNT) project shows that hunting can be a force for good in conserving biodiversity because of the conservation focus many hunting systems have. Going forward, we need to promote multifunctional use of the countryside and consider the social, cultural, economic and ecological functions and impacts of hunting when making important decisions about biodiversity conservation”.

**1 March 2016:**  
**Conference on the European Firearms Directive**

**MEP Karl-Heinz Florenz**, President of the Parliamentary Intergroup Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside: “The Commission’s proposal is rushed and drafted under time pressure. There is no relationship between the legal possession of civilian firearms, such as those used for hunting or target shooting, and the risk of terrorist attacks. I consider it unacceptable to hinder law-abiding citizens with unnecessary or even disproportionate restrictions, which would bring no gain in security in areas that are already subject to sufficient regulations at the national level.”

**27 September 2016:**  
**The Economic Value of Hunting in the EU**

The President of FACE **Dr. Michl Ebner** expounded the figures from various studies conducted in Italy, Austria, England, Greece, France and Ireland: “If we consider direct expenses and voluntary work hunting could be worth 32 Billion Euros. But this is a conservative estimate requiring better methodologies. In order to better assess the economic value of hunting we urge the Commission to entrust EUROSTAT to survey, at five-year intervals, the economic impact of hunting, fishing, watching and gathering wild species as an EU indicator of sustainable use for assessing the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity”.





# MIGRATORY BIRDS

FACE was founded in 1977 by national hunting associations in Europe to take part in the process of shaping the EU Birds Directive by providing hunters' extensive knowledge of nature and governance of hunting.

A similar role was taken at international level, with FACE's involvement, together with CIC (International Council for Game & Wildlife Conservation) and the OMPO institute, in the establishment of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) in the 1990s.

Since those early days, FACE has remained very close to its origins by engaging with these legal instruments every step of the way, and continuing to respond to the challenges of conserving migratory birds and ensuring sustainable hunting of these species which we cherish.

## **FITNESS CHECK OF NATURE LEGISLATION: DIRECTIVES TO REMAIN CLOSED AND IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN TO BE DEVELOPED**

On the 7 December 2016, EU Commissioners confirmed the next steps of the Fitness Check of the Birds and Habitats Directives.

The extensive consultation process has pointed to the need for better implementation, increased funding for nature conservation, and fully addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss in the wider countryside.

On the basis of this debate, the European Commission will develop an implementation Action Plan to improve implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives. This Action Plan will likely contain a series of measures such as additional guidance, better dialogue and financing to address implementation challenges and help Member States take the necessary corrective actions.





FACE was involved in all stages of the consultation process. Going forward, FACE will be urging the European Commission to pursue a more effective implementation of the directives. This should include greater recognition of the sustainable use of wildlife, which provides a positive basis for conservation as acknowledged in the text of the directives. The following points outline FACE's position on the Fitness Check of the Nature Directives:

- The Nature Directives are appropriate instruments for wildlife conservation and management, including sustainable use. Their implementation should be based on scientific principles and sound evidence.
- Under the principle of subsidiarity, Member States should have greater flexibility on the management of large carnivores to improve rural/local acceptance towards these species in order to reach the objectives of the directives.
- Review the application of Article 9 (Birds Directive) for ecologically sound small-scale hunting practices in accordance with the cultural requirements of EU citizens and to reduce conflict and improve rural/local acceptance of abundant species.
- Greater emphasis on conservation of habitats particularly outside of protected areas and priority for species action that have the poorest status in comparison to more charismatic species. More action is needed to prevent pressures on biodiversity from important EU policies, such as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
- Management plans within Natura 2000 sites should be better targeted to make use of hunters' knowledge, experience and motivation for conservation.

FACE will continue to call on the EU for more recognition of hunters in their role in delivering environmental objectives. Equally, FACE calls for greater understanding of the importance of hunting for 7 million Europeans, and that their role in delivering the strategic objectives of the directives is better recognised.

## GUIDELINES ON SUSTAINABLE HARVEST OF MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

In 2016, FACE was delighted to announce the publication of the AEWA Guidelines on Sustainable Harvest of Migratory Waterbirds. This updated report provides detailed guidance on ways of ensuring and managing sustainable harvests of waterbirds in the AEWA region.

This work was developed by leading experts, including FACE staff, from within the Waterbird Harvest Specialist Group of Wetlands International. Going forward, these Guidelines have the potential to support exciting new initiatives towards ensuring cross-border waterbird conservation and management.





## DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM UNDER AEWA

In light of recent developments relating to goose populations within Europe, there has been greater international focus on ways to address goose-human conflicts and their ecosystem impacts. These issues persist and are becoming more acute and complex as a result of increasing goose populations across Europe.

The Platform was formally established at a meeting, which took place in Paris on the 11 – 12 May 2016, was attended by the following AEWA range states: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greenland, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, UK. The first meeting of the Platform Working Group took place in Sweden on 14-16 December 2017.



The proposed structure of the Platform will require an AEWA-led coordination unit and participation by multiple range state organizations and observers including FACE. This management structure will ensure an internationally coordinated decision-making process as well as data collation and processing e.g. of population sizes, harvest statistics and derogations.

For the next three years, it was agreed that the Platform would be funded by contributions from range states and NGOs. The goose species to be initially covered include the Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser f. fabalis*), Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) and Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*). FACE will be considered as a key player with regard to harvest data collection/management as well as advice on derogations.

## SPECIES ACTION PLANNING - EUROSAP

FACE is one of 13 partners involved in this project, which is developing species action plans for 16 species.

FACE is playing an important role in advising on the development of species action plans for the European Turtle Dove and Velvet Scoter as well as a multispecies action plan for wet grassland breeding waders, including: Northern Lapwing, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Black-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Curlew, Ruff, Common Redshank, Baltic Dunlin, Common Snipe.

EuroSAP is a LIFE preparatory project, co-financed by the European Commission Directorate General for the Environment, by the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), and by each of the project partners.

## ILLEGAL KILLING

For FACE, sustainable hunting is not a problem for illegal bird killing, but illegal bird killing is a problem for sustainable hunting!

## MEETING OF THE BERN CONVENTION NETWORK OF SPECIAL FOCAL POINTS, ALBANIA

Within the Bern Convention, there exists a network of Special Focal Points (SFP) for the illegal killing of birds (IKB). The SFP is the body in charge of the supervision of activities against IKB under the Bern Convention. The main partners in this work are AEWA, CMS, INTERPOL, the EU, BirdLife International and FACE. The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the SFP on Illegal Killing took place in Albania (14-15/04/2016).

FACE Conservation Manager, Dr. David Scallan, was invited to present FACE's work on illegal killing. He discussed ongoing activities and projects and stressed our "zero-tolerance policy" towards illegal killing. He also presented examples of how sustainable hunting can significantly reduce the levels of illegal killing. In Malta, for example, the allowing of a limited spring hunt of Turtle Dove, in line with the strict conditions of Article 9 of the Birds Directive, has resulted in a well-documented and significant reduction in illegal killing.



## 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The first meeting of the newly established Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) took place in Cairo, Egypt from the 11-15 July 2016.

At the meeting, Government representatives and a range of other stakeholders worked on developing a comprehensive programme of work for the Task Force until 2020.

The MIKT adopts a zero tolerance approach to illegal killing, trapping and trade of migratory birds (IKB). For this to be successful, it requires the full and proactive support at national level of all stakeholders. FACE has a long-standing zero tolerance policy on wildlife crime including illegal killing, as it is simply not hunting.

The MIKT acknowledges "*the role of legal and sustainable hunting of birds in sustainable livelihoods and conservation of habitats and the role of the hunting community in promoting and encouraging compliance with the law and sustainable hunting practices*".

Dr. David Scallan, FACE Conservation Manager, who attended the meeting delivered a presentation outlining the various activities carried out by FACE Members in the Mediterranean region in the fight against IKB. These include the involvement of hunters in voluntary enforcement, public condemnation of IKB by hunting associations, the organization of various educational initiatives and the promotion of non-binding charters, such as the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity.

Going forward, FACE will be advising on the delivery of the work programme of the Task Force, for example, on how to mobilise the support of hunting organizations/hunters in the Mediterranean region in the fight against illegal killing.

## COMBATting ILLEGAL POISONING OF WILDLIFE

Illegal poisoning is a serious crime posing a direct threat to the sustainable management of ecosystems.

On 19-20 May, FACE Director of Legal and Public Affairs, Johan Svalby attended the EU Platform Meeting on Wildlife Poisoning held in Athens, Greece. Among the participants were the European Commission (organiser), national authorities involved in LIFE projects against wildlife poisoning, universities, BirdLife International and its national partners, and FACE.

Common cases of intentional illegal poisoning are the use of poisoned baits to eliminate predators (wolves, stray and shepherd dogs, foxes...) and some raptors. However, in reality poisoning kills a wider variety of scavengers feeding on carcasses of poisoned animals. Hunting dogs also fall victim of poison, which causes economic and emotional damage to the hunter.

Many of the presentations showed successful collaboration at national and regional level with hunters, farmers and rangers aimed at preventing the use of illegal poison as well as detecting, alerting and reporting on poisoning incidents.

FACE stressed the important work already done by hunters' organisations, such as participation in partnerships against wildlife crime, offering of advice and legal alternatives for predator control including to the livestock sector, funding of wildlife guards and surveillance, and importantly, communication on zero tolerance against illegal poisoning. In order for communication strategies to be successful in gaining wide support, it is important to adhere to the generally agreed principles under the Council of Europe Recommendation 155/2012:

- (i.) this is about illegal killing, not legal hunting;
- (ii.) zero tolerance of illegal killing;
- (iii.) recognition of legal hunting and sustainable use.

The support of national and regional hunting associations to effectively combat the illegal use of poison will be continuously important.





# LARGE CARNIVORES

The European hunting community is an active player in large carnivore conservation, directly contributing to their monitoring as well as to the management of their habitats and prey across our continent. In Europe's densely populated multi-functional landscapes, humans and large carnivores need to find a way to coexist; hunters are - and must be - part of the solution.

With this in mind, FACE works at several levels and promotes large carnivore management and conservation based on scientific knowledge on populations, as well as taking into account the human dimension so as to effectively reduce conflicts.

## EU PLATFORM ON COEXISTENCE BETWEEN PEOPLE AND LARGE CARNIVORES

This Platform was established to promote ways and means to minimize, and wherever possible find solutions to, conflicts between human interests and the presence of large carnivore species. FACE is an active partner in this initiative.

In 2016, the Platform focused on examining good practice case studies with regard to funding coexistence measures in EU Member States through the Common Agricultural Policy's (CAP) Rural Development fund. The Platform Members also found time to discuss the decision of the Government of Romania not to issue harvest quotas for large carnivores, which followed from a Press Release issued by FACE, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) and the European Landowners' Organization (ELO) in October 2016.

## LARGE CARNIVORE KNOWLEDGE BASE

FACE Members encompass a great amount of knowledge and expertise for a better future for Europe's large carnivores. For large carnivore policy development and implementation – whether within a specific country, at EU or Council of Europe level – FACE ensures that it has adequate up-to-date expertise and knowledge on relevant ecological, legal and socio-economic aspects to provide expert input.

## FACE WORKING GROUP ON LARGE CARNIVORES – WGLC

FACE established a network of large carnivore experts from all around Europe, forming the WGLC. This Group is instrumental in maintaining and developing FACE's knowledge base and in coordinating the FACE input for EU and other processes.

## STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Partnerships lie at the heart of all FACE work on large carnivores. Through various fora (such as the EU Action on large carnivores and the Rural Coalition) and bilateral exchange, FACE collaborates extensively with the scientific expert community (e.g. the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe, LCIE) and various stakeholders such as the farmers and landowners (e.g. Copa-Cogeca and ELO) and environmental NGOs (e.g. WWF).

## REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN GERMANY

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Workshop of the Platform took place 18 -20 April 2016 in Berlin, Germany. It was organised by WWF and the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) hosted the event. The main aim of the workshop was to share ideas, examples of good practice and scientific research on the monitoring and management of large carnivores in Central Europe, with a particular focus on cross-border activities and conflict resolution between stakeholders.

The programme included a series of presentations followed by two discussion sessions structured around the following questions: 1. What is needed in terms of a tool-kit for monitoring and 2. What the barriers are to stakeholder engagement and how they can be overcome.

For FACE, the workshop produced useful insights, but required a greater balance and diversity of stakeholders. Going forward, the Platform agreed that future meetings will be jointly organised by different Members of the Platform.



# BIODIVERSITY

Hunters share a passion for nature and biodiversity, their primary concern being far greater than their future ability to hunt but the ability for generations to come to appreciate nature. This is why hunters engage every day right across Europe to conserve and restore nature and biodiversity.

FACE and its Members adopted the FACE Biodiversity Manifesto which reflects the active commitment made by European hunters to biodiversity conservation, ensuring the sustainability of hunting for future generations.

## THE FACE BIODIVERSITY MANIFESTO

Through its 34 action points, the FACE Biodiversity Manifesto (BDM) demonstrates the engagement of European hunters for biodiversity conservation.

Since 2013, FACE has been gathering examples of hunters' actions contributing to biodiversity conservation, from awareness-raising to management activities, in order to evaluate the progress made under the engagements of the Biodiversity Manifesto. This information was first published in the 2015 FACE Biodiversity Manifesto report, which summarises 181 case studies while making the link with the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.

In 2016, FACE developed a new BDM website to promote the BDM and gather new hunting-related biodiversity conservation projects to demonstrate the role and contribution of hunting to policy makers and the public. Please promote this via: [www.biodiversitymanifesto.com](http://www.biodiversitymanifesto.com)

For the 2016 BDM report, it was decided to demonstrate hunters' contribution to the implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, as well as the management of Natura 2000 sites. This focus is of particular interest considering that the European Commission presented its conclusions on the Fitness Check in December 2016. The 2016 BDM report, based on 221 projects throughout Europe, is now available.





## NATURA 2000

Natura 2000 is often referred to as “the centrepiece of EU nature policy” and its designated sites (SACs and SPAs) now cover almost 20 percent of EU land surface. The success of these designated sites requires the support of land users as many of our most valuable habitats are the result of traditional land use practices. Further, some of the most important wildlife sites in Europe have survived the pressures of development and destruction due to the interest of wildlife recreational uses, such as hunting.



*Irish Environment Minister visiting Natura 2000 site in Ireland managed by hunters*

## THE NATURA 2000 BIOGEOGRAPHICAL PROCESS

The European Commission plays its role in promoting cooperation and exchange of experience between all actors involved in the management and designation of Natura 2000 sites. The biogeographical process, which was established in 2011, organises a series of seminars in the nine biogeographical regions. By identifying common objectives and priorities and enhancing cooperation and synergies, the European Commission wants to ensure that the potential of the Natura 2000 network is fully achieved.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> BOREAL BIOGEOGRAPHICAL PROCESS MEETING

On the 5-7 October 2016, FACE participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Boreal Biogeographical Process Meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania. The main points of interest to FACE were discussions about incorporating species conservation and management including large carnivores into the Biogeographical Process. Up until now, the network focused mainly on habitats, not species.

## THE NATURA 2000 USERS FORUM

The Natura 2000 Users' Forum brings together FACE, the foresters (the Confederation of European Forest Owners, CEPF), farmers (Copa-Cogeca), anglers (European Anglers' Alliance, EAA) and landowners (European Landowners' Organisation, ELO). Our organisations represent the major environmental, socio-economic and socio-cultural activities linked to rural areas - areas which host the largest proportion of biodiversity in the EU. Together we represent over 45 million EU citizens which own, manage, use and conserve land. The Forum has proven to be a powerful platform to address EU policy-makers with joint and coherent messages from Europe's land users.

## NATURA 2000 AND FORESTS

The forestry sector incorporates approx. 50% of the Natura 2000 network and 42% of EU's land area. On the 7 December 2016, FACE attended the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on Natura 2000 and Forests at the European Commission (Brussels). The WG discussed the recently published guidance document on Natura 2000 and Forests. Hunting is referred to several times in the document (thanks to previous input by FACE). Regarding the multifunctional role of forestry, the socio-economic benefits of hunting (along with other activities) are mentioned. For example, the document states: *"Some conservation measures may even lead to certain economic benefits in the short or longer term (e.g. creation of better hunting conditions for game species, reduced game damage)"*.





## MAES AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The purpose of the European Commission's MAES (Mapping Assessment of Ecosystem Services) process is to provide policy makers (at national and European level) with an assessment of the ecosystem services that are present in different ecosystem types. This process aims to demonstrate the value of our ecosystems so that land use policy decisions are properly informed.

In 2016, FACE and other key rural/academic stakeholders pushed for the development of a specific working group under MAES on cultural ecosystem services (CES). FACE and ELO organised the first meeting of the CES working group on the 13 September 2016 with 25 experts, including several representatives from national ministries.

On the 19 September, the MAES working group supported FACE's concept to establish a specific CES working group. FACE welcomes this initiative, which will improve our knowledge on the relationship between CES and society, while directly contributing to EU MAES process.

## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy states that *'by 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing green infrastructure and restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems'*. For this purpose, the EU adopted in 2013 a Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy. Green Infrastructure aims to help reconnect existing nature areas and improve the overall ecological quality of the wider countryside.

To assist in developing this target, FACE participated in an EU technical workshop on Green Infrastructure and Restoration in Brussels the 24 and 25 of October 2016. These workshop discussions will feed into the preparation of a MAES report on *'Informing strategic green infrastructure planning in Europe through mapping and assessment methods and lessons learned from Member States'*, which will include methodological guidance for informing policy decisions.

Hunters can play a role in GI implementation through their practical experience in the field, while GI could, in the meantime, benefit hunting activities.



## NO NET LOSS

The No Net Loss (NNL) principle is based on the assumption “*that conservation/ biodiversity losses in one geographically or otherwise defined area are balanced by a gain elsewhere provided that this principle does not entail any impairment of existing biodiversity as protected by EU nature legislation*” (EU Council conclusions on 21 June 2011).

Currently, the NNL initiative is part of the European Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (Target 2) to avoid the loss of ecosystems and their services by 2020. In preparation for the initiative, the European Commission set up in 2013 the EU ad-hoc Working Group on NNL, in which FACE was involved. The purpose was to collect views from Member State representatives, stakeholders (industry, farmers, environmental NGOs, etc.) and experts on such an initiative.

In 2016, FACE promoted the NNL initiative and will continue to get involved in order to provide the European Commission and other stakeholders with hunters' perspectives. FACE also developed a position on NNL in 2016, which can be found on our website.

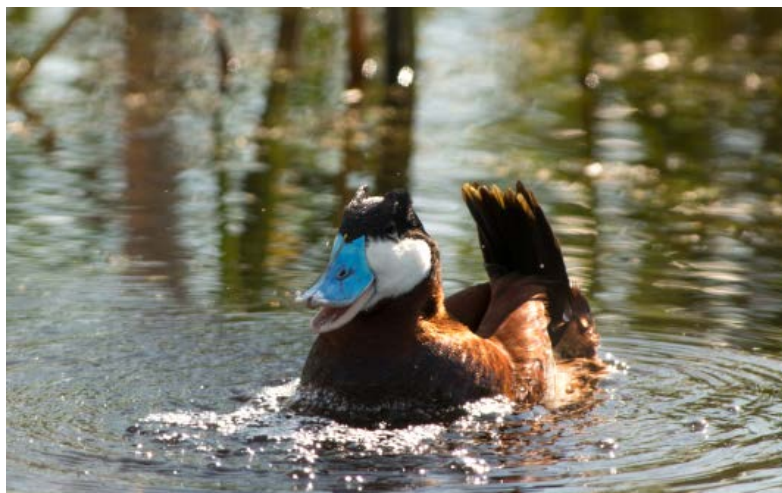


## ADOPTION OF THE FIRST EUROPEAN UNION LIST OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

The European Union (EU) Regulation on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) established the first EU list of IAS, which came into force in July 2016. The list currently comprises 37 species (23 animals and 14 plants) considered to have potential adverse impacts across the EU. This Regulation sets out the restrictions and measures that will now apply to the species on the Union list on keeping, importing, selling, breeding and growing. Among the 23 animal species on the list, four are of interest to hunters. These are the Grey Squirrel, the Raccoon, the Ruddy Duck and the Muntjac Deer.

It is envisaged that the IAS list of species will be updated regularly to include further species likely to have significant impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems. Specifically, EU Member States will be required to take measures for prevention, early detection and rapid eradication of these species, and to manage species that are already widely spread in the territory of some Member States.

FACE attended the EU Working Group on IAS on 6 September 2016 to discuss pathways management, surveillance system and management measures for widely spread species. FACE contributed to the development of a surveillance system for IAS of Union concern that will need to be in place by 2018.



## **BERN CONVENTION ADOPTS NEW RECOMMENDATION ON NORTH AMERICAN MINK**

Between 15-18 of November 2016, FACE attended the 36<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in Strasbourg. Ruddy Duck and American Mink were two important topics of the agenda. The recommendation concerning the Ruddy Duck aims for its total eradication in the Western Palaearctic by 2020. Regarding the North American Mink, the Bern Convention now recommends Contracting Parties to step up their national efforts via the development of new management plans and public awareness campaigns.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT ON HUNTING AND INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES**

The Bern Convention “Code of Conduct on Hunting and Invasive Alien Species” was developed in 2013 with FACE’s help. It presents seven principles that hunters and hunting associations should follow to contribute to eradicating/controlling IAS in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. In 2016, FACE developed a new implementation report to assess progress in delivering on the Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS.

## **IAS EVENT IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

FACE participated in an event hosted by MEP Pavel Poc and MEP Ricardo Serrão Santos on invasive alien species (IAS) at the European Parliament the 10 November. Several speakers from different organisations such as IUCN, BirdLife Europe, EC Joint Research Centre or Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre presented the issues caused by IAS and insisted on the necessity to act fast for this huge and urgent challenge.



# INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

FACE actively participates in key International Agreements, providing relevant expertise, coordination, synergies and awareness in collaboration with its partners and members. In this way, FACE is informed about and involved in all international conservation decisions.

This also provides a way for FACE to raise the international profile of hunters as conservationists, as well as finding ways of working with other conservationists.

## CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES (CITES)

CITES is mainly relevant to hunters in relation to the import/ export of hunting trophies, but also as one of a number of key international agreements setting the global conservation agenda, establishing conservation principles and providing the tools and means for cooperation.

CITES currently has 183 Parties, including the 28 EU Member States which during COPs, held every 3 years, are expected to speak with one voice and to vote as a block. The latest meeting was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2016.



## SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL (SCI)

SCI with members in 103 countries, is a leader in protecting the freedom to hunt and promoting wildlife conservation worldwide. SCI works closely together with its sister organisation, the SCI-Foundation (SCIF). SCIF funds and manages worldwide programmes dedicated to wildlife conservation and outdoor education.

Both organisations are key partners, and FACE continues to enjoy cooperating with both on a very wide number of issues, ranging from purely hunting-related to global conservation issues.

During this year FACE and SCI have especially collaborated in gaining positive recognition of hunting as an essential tool for conservation within CITES and the European Union and in identifying measures and strategies to best engage legal wildlife users, local communities and range country management authorities in community-based programs designed to conserve wildlife, reduce illegal killing and trade in wildlife, and restore habitat.



## POSITIVE CONCLUSIONS FOR HUNTERS AT THE WORLD'S LARGEST WILDLIFE TRADE SUMMIT

When the world's largest wildlife trade summit concluded on 4 October 2016 in Johannesburg, South Africa, hunters could rejoice over a number of victories. During two weeks, the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) gathered some 3,500 participants and 152 governments (Parties) to decide on many issues of relevance to international wildlife trade, including exports/imports of hunting trophies.



FACE's Director of Legal and Public Affairs, Johan Svalby, in close collaboration with FACE's partner organisations, Safari Club International (SCI) and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), participated as observer to ensure that hunters' interests were properly taken into account in decisions by the Parties.

FACE is pleased to see that its recommendations have been followed for practically all of our key issues as outlined in our Conservation Guide . This confirms that conservation through sustainable use and the important role of hunters are still at the core of CITES.



## Resolution recognising the important role of trophy hunting for conservation

The Parties unanimously adopted an important resolution on trade in hunting trophies in which they recognise that “*well-managed and sustainable trophy hunting is consistent with and contributes to species conservation, as it provides both livelihood opportunities for rural communities and incentives for habitat conservation, and generates benefits which can be invested for conservation purposes*”.

### African lions

The proposal to uplist the African lion (*Panthera leo*) as endangered with the implicit aim of preventing sustainable hunting was defeated. Instead, the lion was retained in Appendix II with the following annotations: zero quota of bones, similar parts and derivatives taken from the wild and traded for commercial purposes; and annual export quotas on lion bone specimens derived from captive breeding operations and traded for commercial purposes in South Africa.

FACE is satisfied with this outcome, which focusses on better regulating commercial aspects of lion bone trade, while not negatively affecting lion conservation through hunting. Importantly, the best available science indicates that the species does not meet the biological criteria for uplisting. The population is increasing in Southern Africa where trophy hunting is carried out. Moreover, 28 lion range states stated in May 2016 that decisions leading to a hunting ban would damage lion conservation.



### African elephant

The attempt to list all populations of the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) on Appendix I was defeated. If the uplisting had succeeded, it would have made trophy shipments difficult or impossible from all countries, which would have jeopardised important conservation programmes and efforts to curb poaching in the range states.



### Mountain Zebra

Parties decided to downlist the Mountain zebra (*Equus zebra zebra*) from Appendix I to Appendix II, noting the success story of its conservation and sustainable use.

### Wood bison

Faced with an increasing population in recent years and a strong harvest management, Parties agreed to de-list the Wood Bison (*Bison bison athabasca*) from Appendix II.

### Tur

A proposal from Georgia and the EU to list the Tur (*Capra caucasica*) in Appendix II was adopted. Initially, the proposal also included a zero quota for hunting trophies (which would have equalled to a hunting ban). However, the zero quota was dropped after resistance from a number of Parties, including Canada, the US and

Russia. The latter being a range state, expressed that hunting is a strong incentive for conservation.

FACE, agreeing that hunting constitutes an important conservation tool for this species and having called for the zero quota for hunting trophies to be dropped, was satisfied with the outcome.

### **Peregrine falcon**

Canada's proposal to transfer the Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) from Appendix I to Appendix II was rejected despite the fact that the IUCN/TRAFFIC Analysis held that the Peregrine falcon does not meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I and that existing international instruments and stakeholder engagement are effective in supporting regional and global efforts for conservation.

FACE regrets the outcome and the missed opportunity to appropriately respond to the conservation success in the restoration of this species.

### **CITES and livelihoods**

The CoP17 took further steps in recognising the critical links between CITES decisions and rural communities. Given the impact that CITES outcomes can have on rural livelihoods, many Parties argued that those living with and managing wildlife on the ground deserve louder voices in CITES decision-making processes.

FACE welcomes this development and will continue to push for a greater participation of rural communities in the development and implementation of CITES-related policies.

### **Next CITES CoP**

CITES CoP18 will be held in Sri Lanka in 2019. FACE and its partners will continue to work to ensure that the overall positive recognition of hunting and conservation taken by Parties during the CoP17 is reinforced during the next CoP18.



## FACE AT THE IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS IN HAWAII, USA

Since February 2016, FACE followed the process leading up to the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Hawai'i, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016.

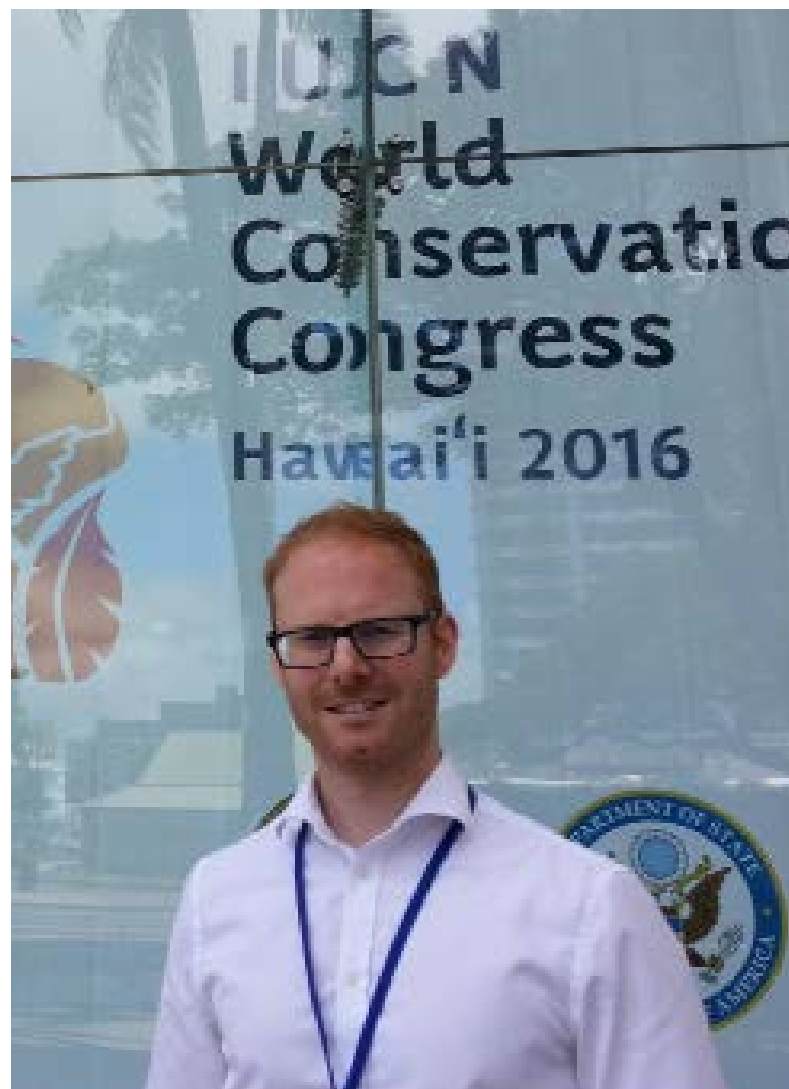
During this time, FACE contributed to developing the text of over 20 IUCN motions via the online motions process ahead of electronic voting and voting during the Members' Assembly at the WCC. FACE worked closely with its Members that are affiliated to IUCN.

At the WCC, FACE coordinated several meetings with IUCN State and Government Members about issues relating to sustainable use and potentially problematic motions. FACE also attended over 20 side events prior to the Members assembly.

The most problematic motion was related to lead ammunition, which originally set out to ban all lead ammunition over all habitats including for Olympic shooting disciplines. Prior to the vote at the IUCN WCC, there were three intense contact group meetings with a range of IUCN State, Government and NGO Members.

FACE argued for the wording to be kept in line with current FACE policy, which encourages the phasing out of lead shot over wetlands.

At the WCC, FACE also participated in various side events dealing with hunting and sustainable use issues. These included an event on "*Conservation, Animal Welfare and Animal Rights: Tensions & Synergies*" and another called "*Does hunting have a future? Hunting, conservation incentives and community livelihoods in a changing world*". The outcomes of both were positive for hunting, but outlined the need to continue to promote hunting as an important conservation, socio-economic and cultural activity.



*Dr. David Scallan, FACE, questioning the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) panel on sustainable use matters.*

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CONFIRMS THE SUSTAINABLE ROLE OF TROPHY HUNTING

During 2016, the European Parliament stood up for the sustainable role of trophy hunting. Three attempts to propose restrictions were rejected.

1) European Parliament Written Declaration 0003/2016 on trophy hunting (open to signatures from 18/1/to 18/4/2016) called for the European Commission and Council to restrict all trophy imports into the EU. This initiative was defeated in the final vote.

2) The European Parliament's resolution on the EU's strategic objectives for CITES CoP17. On 12 July 2016, the Environment Committee voted on a proposal calling for a complete ban on all trophy hunting and the sale of hunting trophies. This was defeated in the final vote.

3) On 12 October 2016, the European Parliament's Environment Committee voted on the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking. Some amendments called for trophy hunting to be banned or severely restricted. These amendments were defeated.

A welcome contribution in the debate was the publication and dissemination to MEPs by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) of a Briefing Paper titled *"Informing decisions on trophy hunting - A Briefing Paper for European Union Decision-makers regarding potential plans for restriction of imports of hunting trophies"*. This publication draws on a set of case studies to highlight that while there exists poor practice in trophy hunting and a need for reform, well managed trophy hunting can - and does - positively contribute to conservation and local livelihoods in the face of intense competing pressures on wildlife habitat and widespread poaching. It can be read here: [http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/iucn\\_informingdecisionsontrophyhuntingv1.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/iucn_informingdecisionsontrophyhuntingv1.pdf)

## EU ACTION PLAN AGAINST WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

Wildlife trafficking (defined as the illegal cross-border trade in wildlife) continues to pose a threat to biodiversity conservation globally, particularly so on the African continent.

At a meeting of the European Parliament's Intergroup on Biodiversity, Hunting and Countryside, held in May 2015 and organised by FACE, the Commission revealed for the first time publically its intention to publish an EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking aimed at tackling both the domestic and the global dimensions of the problem.

FACE supports the initiative by the Commission and has provided its comments on the Action Plan in the consultation process.

Hunters originating from EU countries play a significant role in raising money to fund wildlife conservation programs worldwide. Their expenditure for licenses, services and special governmental fees provide much of the revenue used by wildlife management authorities in developing countries for conservation and anti-poaching programmes. Moreover, hunting is often the only incentive for local communities in remote and poor areas to correctly manage revenue generating wildlife.

This message was further brought to the European Parliament during 2016 for its work on a resolution on the EU Action Plan.

The arguments and suggestions by FACE on this issue, which were submitted to the EU Institutions, are published here:

<http://face.eu/sites/default/files/documents/english/facecommentswildlifetrafficking14sept2015.pdf>



# FIREARMS & AMMUNITIONS

FACE and its Members seek to ensure that hunters can acquire, possess, use and travel with firearms and ammunition safely and without unjustified bureaucracy, costs or restrictions. Many of these aspects are presently covered by EU law, either through full harmonisation or minimum rules.

Furthermore, FACE aims to facilitate processes to ensure that hunters have information on and access to ammunition which is available, affordable and safe to use for the purpose intended.

## NEW POSITION ON LEAD AMMUNITION DEVELOPED BY IUCN

In 2016, FACE worked tirelessly on an IUCN motion, which was originally designed to ban all lead ammunition over all habitats, including for Olympic shooting disciplines. In September 2016, the motion was put to the floor of the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Hawaii where FACE was represented by Dr. David Scallan.

Prior to the vote at the IUCN WCC, there were intense meetings with a range of IUCN State, Government and NGO Members. The adopted motion in its request to Governments, asks: *“to phase-out, where feasible, lead shot used for hunting over wetlands and lead ammunition used for hunting in areas where scavengers are at particular risk from the use of lead ammunition, based on scientific evidence, and the replacement of it with suitable alternatives”*.

The latter aspect of the motion (i.e. focusing on scavengers) was voted on separately by IUCN Members prior to the vote on the entire motion. Both votes were passed by the vast majority of IUCN Members.

During the discussions and negotiations, FACE argued against a global ban on lead ammunition stating that no risk/economic/welfare assessment had been conducted and pointed to issues regarding the evidence-base, animal welfare, the availability and cost of alternatives as well as potential impacts on hunter-led conservation work. FACE also argued that where issues occur with the use of lead ammunition, they can be managed through risk mitigation options that are targeted at the risk and are proportionate to the level of risk.

With regard to wetlands, FACE argued that further action is needed because even within Europe, some countries have still not phased out lead shot in wetlands, many years after original target deadlines under the African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement.



# ANIMAL WELFARE AND HEALTH

Hunters monitor the health status of animals living in the wild (Swine Fever, Rabies, Avian Influenza amongst others) and so play a key role in protecting public health and that of domestic (farmed) animals. In this way, hunters are key partners of European (EU) and international (OIE) initiatives against transmissible diseases (zoonosis).

FACE informs EU policies to make them workable for hunters in the field and provides guidance to hunters on how best to comply with administrative procedures linked to game meat, animal welfare, public and animal health. FACE participates in the meetings of the European Commission's Animal Health Advisory Committee.

## AVIAN FLU: HUNTERS AS WATCHDOGS FOR THE HEALTH OF WILDLIFE

In 2016, FACE disseminated information on the spread of avian flu. FACE urged Europe's 7 million hunters to remain alert, scale-up surveillance and report any suspected cases (of sick or dead birds) to national authorities. FACE also contributed to the development of the UNEP CMS FAO Co-convened Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds statement on H5N8.

FACE was advising hunting organisations to:

- Continue to monitor avian flu surveillance programmes and keep up with other developments as they occur;
- Continue to inform their members about avian flu and the need to exercise caution when handling birds.

Those in contact with wild birds should take appropriate hygiene precautions when handling wild birds. For example:

- Do not handle or eat sick game.
- Vigorous hand washing should take place after each activity; thoroughly clean knives, equipment and surfaces that come in contact with game.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling animals.
- All game should be thoroughly cooked.

It is important to note that it has not been demonstrated that hunting contributes to spreading the disease. Further, hunting restrictions would remove a key method of surveillance across Europe.





# HUNTING METHODS AND CULTURE

The strength of hunting lies in its diversity. FACE actively supports the rich diversity of hunting methods, traditions and cultures in Europe whilst fully promoting the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, which defer decisions and their application to national levels.

Our partners in this work include the International Union of Hunting with Hounds, the European Bowhunting Federation (EBF), the International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) and the European Association of Traditional Hunts (AECT) to name a few.

## EUROPEAN BOWHUNTING FEDERATION

The European Bowhunting Federation (EBF) was established at their founding meeting in 2003 in Helsinki. CIC with their working group “Bowhunting” has actively supported this process from the beginning. EBF is registered with the Finnish association register. Today, EBF has contacts into 30 different European countries or independent provinces with many of them being active members of the Federation. In 2014 onwards, FACE accepted EBF as associate member, recognizing this traditional hunting method as part of human hunting heritage.

The main goals and objectives of EBF are:

- To promote ethical Bowhunting in Europe consistent with good wildlife management practices.
- To provide useful information and assistance towards obtaining Bowhunting legislation.
- To promote and co-ordinate Bowhunting education, in co-operation with non-profit national organizations responsible for the education of Bowhunters.
- To generate and distribute information on Bowhunting to whom it may concern.
- To establish contacts between governments, authorities responsible for game and wildlife conservation, hunters, and scientific organizations in all nations if required.

During 2016, the European Bowhunting Federation gathered valuable information in several meetings of FACE and EBF representatives made important networks along with these. Important legislative facts about hunting with bow and arrow in certain European countries were shared and learned. The EBF was present at the FACE Members Meeting in Serbia, at the FACE conference on “Large carnivores” in the European Parliament, at the conference on “Economics of hunting” in the European Parliament, and at the FACE General Assembly in Belgium. The FACE representatives, Anders Gejer, EBF President, Gabrielle Smart, EBF Face contact, and Thomas Beer, substitute FACE representative, were present in these meetings. The gatherings proved to be valuable opportunities to learn about the broad spectrum of hunting related topics throughout Europe. They were also opportunities to present the possibilities of our traditional hunting method as one additional form of sustainable



use of natural resources. In this context, EBF distributed a folder on hunting with bow and arrow in Europe to FACE representatives.

We now see that the public as well as the hunting organizations are more understanding about the possibilities of hunting with bow and arrow. The increasing encroachment of wildlife habitat by urban housing development will increase the need for game management in such areas in the future. Positive experiences of US urban bowhunting programs and recently in Madrid show the potential of bowhunting as a hunting tool with almost no concerns about safety and public disturbance. Denmark has recently adopted similar approaches through the hunting leases of governmental land of smaller size and/or close to urban areas. EBF can support evaluation of such game management possibilities.

Several nations have adopted or are currently reviewing broadening of the use of bow and arrow as a hunting tool. EBF is excited to be part of these processes and content to be part of the bigger FACE hunting community.



## FALCONRY, A LIVING HUMAN HERITAGE

*The International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) is an Accredited Advisory NGO and attended the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.*

This took place in the United Nations Centre in Addis Ababa in December 2016. The IAF has a Memorandum of Understanding with FACE and we work closely together on many issues. FACE itself also enjoys accredited NGO status with the Intergovernmental Committee.

Hard work by the falconers of Portugal, Italy, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Germany paid off in 2016 to bring to 18 the total of countries on the list "Falconry, a living human heritage": these five plus United Arab Emirates, Belgium, France, Spain, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Czech Republic, Morocco, Korea, Hungary, Austria and Qatar.

The importance of being on the list cannot be overemphasized: governments which list an element are *obliged* to preserve it, including putting aside funding for it. This is worth repeating: not only are governments *not* allowed to attack the element, they have to ensure it is not damaged by other entities. This means the falconers are not alone in defending falconry, their governments must help them.

In 2004, when IAF began in partnership with United Arab Emirates towards the recognition of falconry, we believed that falconry, its skills and philosophies, was being lost. Since achieving UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) recognition the falconers of the world have cause for celebration - falconry is now solid in many, many countries.

Such is the prestige of UNESCO that ICH has been successful in defending falconry in countries which are not even signatories. To make a simple statement like “Falconry is recognised by UNESCO” is very powerful, even when talking to a government with no intention of signing the Convention.

The work of the Intangible Cultural Heritage cannot be praised enough. FACE should continue using its position as accredited NGO to UNESCO to promote aspects of hunting that fulfil the criteria. By taking part in UNESCO meetings the falconers have moulded a powerful weapon in their arsenal against their opponents, the hunters could do this too. The power of the Convention as a force for unity touches us all.

The Republic of Korea will host the next UNESCO meeting in December 2017.





# FINANCES

FACE delivers cost-effective support to its Members. This represents great value for European hunters considering the extent of work carried out by the FACE Secretariat and the fact that Membership subscriptions represent less than 10 cents per hunter.

It is in this ethos that FACE offers cost-effective and transparent management of finances to its members and partners, generating maximum impact with limited expenditure.

While the core funding of FACE comes from the Memberships fees, a portion of FACE's budget is also financed by the European Commission's Directorate Environment through LIFE NGO Funding.



## TRANSPARENCY

FACE is fully signed up to the EU Transparency Register (Reg No 75899541198-85) which is operated by the European Parliament and the European Commission. FACE operates by their Code of Conduct in all our relations with the EU Institutions and their Members, officials and other staff.

For more details on the register see [http://europa.eu/transparency-register/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/transparency-register/index_en.htm)

## FINANCES

**PERIOD FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2016**

### INCOME

Membership fees - Full Members	678,586 €
Membership fees - Associate Members	22,950 €
LIFE NGO Grant	135,128 €
Subsidies (ECMA)	36,000 €
Subsidies (ESFAM)	15,500 €
Operational support	10,272 €
FACE Research Fund	6,608 €
Sponsorship (IAF)	6,000 €
Financial income	1,202 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>912,245 €</b>

### EXPENDITURE

Premises	21,751 €
Consumables	1,760 €
Administration	50,117 €
Work programme costs	82,467 €
President costs	6,127 €
Staff missions	38,090 €
Staff payroll	639,133 €
Staff training & development	1,806 €
Depreciation (annual liability)	31,398 €
FACE Research Fund	14,000 €
Unforeseen special consultancy	46,440 €
Financial charges	3,300 €
Loss on 2015 income	8,115 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>944,504 €</b>











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