



Conclusions and Recommendations on the part of FACE and its Member organisations

Participating at the Council of Europe's Conference on "Illegal Killing of Birds" in Larnaka, Cyprus on 6-8 July 2011;

Restating the commitment FACE entered into with Birdlife International and the European Commission through their Agreement of October 2004 and the constructive discussions that have taken place since then and which have in some measure contributed to this Conference;

Recalling the importance of the principles and guidelines laid down in the Council of Europe's Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity, in particular the need for regulations to be understandable, flexible, logical and proportionate;

Recognising the diverse nature and motivations lying behind the cases of illegal and criminal conduct presented at the Conference and the importance of collaborative working if such activities are to be tackled effectively;

Confirming its absolute commitment against any killing or taking of wild birds in breach of national laws, rules and regulations (in compliance with the EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds and the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats);

FACE concludes that:

All hunting organisations must henceforward work wholeheartedly with all relevant national authorities in the fight against any form of rural and wildlife crime, especially any killing or taking of wild birds outside the law and regulations.

- Using their networks of members in local communities to police their own hunting areas, raise awareness and report incidents of illegal killing or taking to appropriate authorities
- Making technical expertise and experience available to inform enforcement operations and investigations by the authorities
- Helping to ensure that such operations are seen to be carried out proportionately, thoroughly and fairly
- Supporting prosecutions brought to trial by providing witness and technical evidence.

All hunting organisations must further apply systems to exclude from their membership people who break the law or conduct themselves outside local hunting tradition, and apply such other sanctions as may be appropriate, thereby making the clear distinction between responsible hunters and sustainable hunting that form part of the European heritage, and criminal activity that must have no future place in it.

All hunting organisations must be encouraged to actively participate in surveys, data gathering and other initiatives investigating the extent, nature and motivation of any alleged killing or taking of wild birds outside the law and regulations so as to better formulate effective strategies, plans and solutions.

Calls on the Commission, Council of Europe and relevant agencies and NGOs to recognise and support FACE in spreading this message and building capacity at national, regional and local level for these ends.

Calls upon Birdlife International to encourage among its Partners, governments and authorities proper and practical application of all international law and convention obligations, as well as understanding for the benefits of sustainable hunting to biodiversity and society.