



**Intergroup Biodiversity, Hunting and  
Countryside**

**27.6.2017 European Parliament,  
Brussels**

# **Perspectives on combating illegal killing: the role of hunters**

**Marita Arvela  
Nature protection Unit  
European Commission, DG Environment**

# Birds Directive

All wild bird species in the EU are strictly protected

- Except, 82 species are listed as huntable species, either in all EU28 MS or limited to some MS only

What does the Directive prohibit?



# Birds Directive

## Article 5

*Without prejudice to Articles 7 and 9, Member States shall take the requisite measures to establish a general system of protection for all species of birds referred to in Article 1, prohibiting in particular:*

- (a) **deliberate killing or capture by any method;***
- (b) **deliberate destruction of, or damage to, their nests and eggs or removal of their nests;***
- (c) taking their eggs in the wild and keeping these eggs even if empty;*
- (d) deliberate disturbance of these birds particularly during the period of breeding and rearing, in so far as disturbance would be significant having regard to the objectives of this Directive;*
- (e) keeping birds of species the hunting and capture of which is prohibited*



# Birds Directive

## Article 7 ('Hunting provision')

*...They shall see in particular that the species to which hunting laws apply are **not hunted during the rearing season or during the various stages of reproduction.***

*In the case of migratory species, they shall see in particular that the species to which hunting regulations apply **are not hunted during their period of reproduction or during their return to their rearing grounds.***



# Birds Directive

## Article 8

1. *In respect of the hunting, capture or killing of birds under this Directive, Member States shall **prohibit** the use of all means, arrangements or methods used for the **large-scale or non-selective capture or killing** of birds or capable of causing the local disappearance of a species, in particular the use of those listed in Annex IV, point (a).*
2. *Moreover, Member States shall **prohibit** any hunting from **the modes of transport** and under the conditions mentioned in Annex IV, point (b).*



# Habitats Directive

## Article 12

- Strictly protected species are listed in **Annex IV** (e.g. brown bear, otter)
  - ✓ Prohibits any exploitation or disturbance

## Article 14

- No specific provision on hunting. But for species listed in **Annex V** hunting is possible (*may be subject to management measures*) - as long as the exploitation is compatible with maintenance in favourable conservation status (e.g. pine marten, golden jackal, beaver in six MS)



# Habitats Directive

## Article 15

- prohibits **large-scale or non-selective** means and methods
  - ✓ e.g artificial light sources, non-selective nets/traps, poisoned baits, moving motor vehicles

## Both Directives allow use of derogations

- **Strict conditions needs to be fulfilled**
  1. no other satisfactory solution and
  2. not detrimental to the conservation status and
  3. respect of derogation reasons (e.g. serious damage to livestock)



# EU Roadmap aiming at combating illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/illegal\\_killing.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/illegal_killing.htm)

- Commission has developed this Roadmap together with MS and stakeholders
- it consists of a set of targeted actions to be carried out by Member States, stakeholders, and the Commission.

The Roadmap does not aim to set up a comprehensive program aimed at eliminating illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds.

- such a program is the **Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020** under the Bern Convention - the EU Roadmap is part of it





# EU Roadmap aiming at combating illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds

4 headlines:

- 1) **Monitoring and data collection,**
- 2) **Information exchange, training and awareness-raising,**
- 3) **Enforcement and legal aspects, and**
- 4) **Prevention**

EU Roadmap is also part of the **EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking**

- its Action 11 under *Priority 2 Making implementation and enforcement of existing rules and the fight against organised wildlife crime more effective*



# Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)

- Task Force established in 2016 under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
- **Programme of Work** 2016-2020
- **EC financing** involved
- **Scoreboard** agreed last week! To measure progress of implementation of both MIKT and Tunis Action Plan



# **Task Force on** Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the **Mediterranean (MIKT)**

Cairo declaration 2016 :

**Zero tolerance approach** to any deliberate illegal killing of birds (IKB) which contravenes national law and the commitments under international conventions and Multilateral Environmental Agreements



# Role of hunters

- **FACE** participates in **biannual stakeholder meetings** organised by the Commission under the EU roadmap on combating illegal killing of birds
- **FACE** is an active member in **MIKT**

IKB is a shared issue: the implementation of the MIKT's programme requires cooperation among governments, international organizations, law enforcement agencies, local communities, the responsible stakeholders and nature conservation NGOs, **including hunting associations**, to maximize impact



→ **Excellent possibility for hunters to show their commitment**



European  
Commission

# Role of hunters

Task Force's Programme of Work includes concrete actions targeting hunters under Thematic Area

## ***Education and public awareness:***

*to improve hunter education processes and raise awareness at national level by working together with hunting organisations and the wider hunting community*

### Examples on agreed actions:

- ✓ Encouraging hunting organizations to adopt **codes of conduct** including, where relevant, those based on traditional hunting principles, and by systematically condemning IKB;



# Role of hunters

- ✓ Dissemination of principles of the Bern Convention **Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity** and other relevant guidance;
- ✓ Encouraging states and hunting associations to **organize national seminars** to inform and train hunters on species identification, species protected by law, forbidden methods, etc.
- ✓ Encouraging national administrations **to improve regulatory systems concerning hunting education** (e.g. licensing, examinations, hunter training etc)



## Conclusions...

It is in hunters' own interest to **actively** fight against illegal killing and to respect zero tolerance approach on illegal killing

Increasing awareness raising, communication campaigns, training...