



PRESS RELEASE

FACE: EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR HUNTING & CONSERVATION

FACE JOINS FORCES WITH INTERNATIONAL FALCONRY ASSOCIATION

FACE and IAF signed a Memorandum of Understanding aiming at strengthening the cooperation between the two organisations on wildlife conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

PRESS RELEASE, Brussels, 20.4.2015: On the 20th of April 2015, FACE President Gilbert de Turckheim and Adrian Lombard, President of the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF), signed in Brussels a memorandum of understanding between the two organisations that will strengthen their cooperation in the domain of falconry and sustainable use of renewable resources.

Mr de Turckheim said: “This agreement marks the accomplishment of a long and successful path of cooperation and friendship between our organisations. FACE fosters all sustainable hunting traditions in Europe. It is therefore a great honour to engage with IAF to actively promote falconry, one of the most ancient and fascinating hunting traditions in the world.”

Following the signature ceremony, IAF officially inaugurated its European liaison office in Brussels, which is located in the headquarters of FACE. European nature and animal welfare legislation calls for a professional representation at European level promoting falconry and advocating the work falconers do in terms of conservation of birds of prey.

IAF's Brussels office, which will be staffed with an Executive Officer, will serve as a permanent contact point for European policy makers and officials in all questions related to the preservation of the ancient art of falconry and the conservation of birds of prey.

Thanks to its international engagement over the course of the last decades IAF has gained substantial knowledge as regards raptor biology and conservation, increasing the perception of falconry and improving the public's understanding of this unique relationship between man and animal. Preserving this traditional hunting culture involves actively encouraging falconers to engage in practical conservation projects, such as the successful re-establishment of peregrine falcon populations in Europe and saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) conservation in its range states. IAF therefore encourages falconry in a context of legal and sustainable use of wildlife.

IAF's European member organizations have significant concerns regarding the declining numbers of small game, particularly partridge, within Europe. To address this, a Working Group of experts and qualified individuals from a range of countries across Europe has been established. Other meetings of IAF specialist Working Groups will cover such topics as ecological studies, veterinary research, rehabilitation and domestic breeding of falconry raptors.

IAF' has been successful in gaining the UNESCO recognition of Falconry as intangible human heritage.

IAF's European Office is located in Rue Frederic Pelletier, 82, 1030 Brussels.

Notes for editors: The International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey is dedicated to the preservation of the ancient art of falconry. IAF represents 105 falconry clubs and raptor conservation organizations in 67 countries, including the whole of Europe. IAF is an accredited member of IUCN since 1996. It is an accredited observer to the Bern Convention, CMS and CBD and is co-operating Partner to the UNEP/CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (the Raptors MoU). IAF is also an accredited NGO providing advisory services to UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee (NGO-90006). URL: <http://www.iaf.org>.

FACE is the European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation. 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 national hunters' associations from 36 European countries including the EU-28. FACE also has 4 Associate Members and is based 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. www.face.eu

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS, QUOTES, PHOTOS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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