

**THE FACE OF 2012**

THE FACE TEAM IS BACK IN THE OFFICE IN BRUSSELS AND LOOKING FORWARD TO THE YEAR AHEAD WHICH WILL BE A TESTAMENT TO **35 YEARS OF FACE**.

**2 January 2012, Brussels -** It’s going to be another action-packed year, so here are a few highlights that we are looking forward to…

21 January: FACE’s regional work builds the capacity and expertise of FACE Members who focus on issues specific to their region. The **first regional meeting** will see FACE’s Mediterranean grouping - **FACE MED** - hosted by the **Cyprus** Federation for Hunting & Wildlife Conservation. Representatives from France, Greece, Italy and Malta will join Cypriot representatives to discuss a range of Mediterranean-specific dossiers and share their experiences.

24 January: FACE’s first EU event of the year, you are invited to join us for a special **Invasive Alien Species** **Seminar** in the **European Parliament, Brussels**. This interactive session hosted by UK MEP Robert Sturdy will gather subject experts from FACE, the European Landowners’ Organization (ELO) and the European Anglers Alliance (EAA) amongst others, with decision-makers from both the Parliament and the Commission to discuss this key issue which will see EU proposals put forward this year.

**World Wetlands Day** on **2 February** will be celebrated by all those who care about wetlands – and so hunters will be getting involved. FACE’s good collaboration with **Safari Club International**, SCI and their sister organisation the Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF), centres on the common work on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species,CITES and other relevant international environmental agreements. With this in mind FACE will be at their **Annual Convention** in Las Vegas in **February**.

**March** will mark one year tothe much-anticipated COP-16 of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, CITES** and FACE will be stepping up its preparations with its partners for this key international agreement, where hunters and hunting need to be recognised as having an important role for conservation through trophy hunting and community-based natural resource management programmes – and therefore we need to avoid unjustified restrictions and bureaucracy on trophy exports/imports.

FACE Chief Executive Angus Middleton will be speaking at the **HUNT Conference** from **27-29** **March 2012** in **Spain**, exploring and discussing the diverse values and impacts of hunting and how the multidisciplinary research results should be taken into account when designing policy, including future EU biodiversity policies which could affect hunting and biodiversity conservation. This unique conference is the centerpiece of **HUNT**, a unique research project looking into the wider meaning of hunting in the 21st century, and will lead straight into the **FACE Members’ Meeting** in **Athens** – an intensive series of sessions involving hunting leaders from across Europe focusing on policy implementation.

The **FACE Technical Group on Legal Affairs** will gather its experts in **Milan**, **Italy** in **April** to progress its detailed analysis and understanding of hunting-related legislation.

**May** will see FACE’s key partner, the Council on International Wildlife & Conservation’s (CIC) General Assembly in South Africa preceding the MOP-5 of the **African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)** in **La Rochelle, France**, where FACE will be participating and contributing hunters’ technical insights for the long-term benefit of migratory birds, along with **World Migratory Bird Day** being celebrated on 14-15 May. Indeed, birds and their conservation will as ever be a major focus for FACE in 2012, and we will be keen to see the results of the **Ramsar Wetland Awards** in **July**.

**June** marks the start of the busy summer period of hunting and game fairs. The **European Hornblowing Championships** will take place in **Denmark** in July, the same month as **Cyprus** will take over the **EU Presidency** from Denmark.

**September** kicks off the autumn season with the **FACE General Assembly** as well as the **IUCN World Conservation Congress** in Jeju, Korea, followed by another big international meeting: the COP-11 of the **Convention on Biological Diversity** in **October** - FACE supports the **CIC** in their important work of promoting sustainable wildlife management at a global level and particularly at these two fora.

**European Hunters’ Day** and traditional **St.Hubert** celebrations will take place in **November** across Europe, from the local level through to the European Parliament and December will signal the start of preparations for the Irish EU Presidency in 2013.

As the EU enters the new year in a climate of deepening economic crisis, hunters have an ever-increasing role to play, as we tend to have the hands-on approach and are amongst the most resilient group in paying their way for a great deal of conservation across the EU.

Apart from these milestones snapshot above, 2012 will see FACE continuously working to best position hunters and nature’s interests alike in the **future EU Common Agricultural Policy Reform**, as well as the upcoming **EU Animal Welfare Strategy**. FACE will be engaging on the development of policy options for an **EU Strategy for Invasive Alien Species** led by the European Commission. Throughout the year FACE will continue to work with its Members to addresses global conservation concerns and targets through **The Biodiversity Manifesto.**

Perhaps more so than in recent years 2012 brings many varied challenges – the key to overcoming them will be working together.

**\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\***

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**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 organization (NGO).

FACE is made up of its **Members**: **national hunters’ associations** from **38 European countries** including the EU-27. 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. [www.face.eu](http://www.face.eu)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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