



PRESS RELEASE

FACE: EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR HUNTING & CONSERVATION

SUCCESSFUL START OF THE PARLIAMENTARY INTERGROUP BIODIVERSITY, HUNTING, COUNTRYSIDE

PRESS RELEASE

Strasbourg, 12 February 2015 – At today's constituent meeting, the Parliamentary Intergroup Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside took important first steps to facilitate its future work in the fields of biodiversity, hunting, angling, wildlife management, forestry, agriculture and nature conservation. MEP Karl-Heinz Florenz (EPP, Germany) was elected the President of the Intergroup, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. With him, MEP Bendt Bendtsen (EPP, Denmark), MEP Renata Briano (S&D, Italy) and MEP James Nicholson (ECR, UK) were elected as Vice-Presidents. In addition to the Vice-Presidents, MEP Annie Schreijer-Pierik (EPP, Netherlands) was elected as Secretary General of the Intergroup. The Intergroup officially adopted the name "Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside" and agreed on a draft work programme for 2015, including several meetings on upcoming topics.

"We are facing a lot of challenges regarding biodiversity, sustainable hunting and wildlife management as well as climate change and rural development in the next few years. This Intergroup will serve 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" said the newly elected President Karl-Heinz Florenz.

Representing the Secretariat of the Intergroup, FACE President Gilbert de Turckheim stressed the enormous importance of the Intergroup for the work of FACE and the interests of the 7 million hunters in Europe. *"The 'Hunting Intergroup' has become one of the backbones of our daily work and is now absolutely essential for our mission to promote and defend sustainable hunting across Europe. It enables us to directly engage with decision makers and provide them with relevant, science-based information on the wide range of topics related to hunting, angling and other forms of sustainable use of natural resources."*

The next meeting of the Intergroup will take place on the 14th of April 2015 in Brussels. Detailed information will follow soon.

*****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 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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From left to right : FACE-President Gilbert de Turckheim, Delphine Dupeux (ELO), MEP James Nicholson, MEP Renata Briano, MEP Karl-Heinz Florenz, MEP Annie Schreijer-Pierik, MEP Bendt Bendtsen

