



PRESS RELEASE

FACE: EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR HUNTING & CONSERVATION

Increasing wolf population will be discussed by MEPS

Conference on wolf management to be held by the “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside” Intergroup at the European Parliament in Brussels on September 15th, 2015.

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, September 8, 2015 – Wolves are making a comeback in Europe. The growing numbers of wolves have resulted in conflicts, such as attacks to livestock, prompting some Member States to call on the European Commission to review their legal status under the Habitats Directive. Article 19 of the Habitats Directive makes provision to adapt the legal status of protected species to technical and scientific progress, but has never been applied.

Hailed by some and feared by others wolves are contributing to a heated debate between those whose livelihoods are affected by wolves, those who welcome them and policy makers involved in the governance of their populations. The **Intergroup Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside** seeks to stimulate a constructive dialogue among key stakeholders in view of better understanding which management methods would reduce the human-wolf conflict. The discussion will seek to find a balance between conservation objectives, local requirements and the need to adopt realistic and where necessary innovative measures taking into account the framework and objectives of the EU Habitats Directive.

According to the last report under the Habitats Directive the wolf population in the EU is estimated to be at around 10,000 individuals (2007-2012), with most populations being stable or increasing. In the same report Favourable Conservation Status was achieved in 58% of individual assessments at Member State level, while 33% were considered ‘Unfavourable-inadequate’, and 9% as ‘Unfavourable-bad’.

MEP Karl-Heinz Florenz (EPP) Intergroup President said: “What a lot of people still don’t understand is that – on the long run – the wolf will only be accepted in areas, where his presence is dealt with in a reasonable way. But what is “reasonable” when it comes to the wolf? Does “in a reasonable way” mean that the legal status of the wolf has to be adapted? These questions will be discussed on the 15th of September.”

Mr Florenz will introduce the event which will be chaired by MEP Bendt BENDTSEN (EPP).

Speakers:

- Helmut DAMMAN-TAMKE, President of the Hunting Association of Lower Saxony
- Dr. Julien ALLEAU, Centre de Recherche d’Histoire Quantitative
- Emmanuel COSTE, COPA-COGECA

- Jozef DOCZY, Director Department of Forestry and Hunting, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic
- Semi NIEMI, Adviser at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland
- Dr. Eick von RUSCHKOWSKI, Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU)
- Stefan LEINER, Acting Director and Head of Unit ENV.B2, DG Environment, European Commission.

The conference will take place on the 15th of September 2015 in the European Parliament, Room PHS 7C 050 at 11:30 am. Before the conference participants will be offered complimentary refreshments.

Background

The Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside Intergroup was created in 1985 and is one of the oldest and most active in the Parliament. Since 1985, The Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation (FACE) provides the Secretariat for the Intergroup. The Intergroup works on issues for which the European Parliament is competent in the fields of biodiversity, hunting, angling, wildlife management, forestry, agriculture and nature conservation, taking into account the public and wild animal health and welfare. The Intergroup also addresses cross-cutting issues which have an impact on socio-economic activities in rural areas.

In May 1992, under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, the grey wolf (*Canis Lupus*) was given the status of strictly protected species, banning its intentional killing due to its critically endangered status. Since 1992 the population has greatly increased and has not been at threat of extinction since 2009. In spite of its recovery, the legislation has not been changed.

To register to the event:

Please send an email to Cecilia Luetgebrune: cecilia.luetgebrune@face.eu

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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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT (Not to be published):

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