



PRESS RELEASE

FACE: EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR HUNTING & CONSERVATION

Hunting in Europe is worth 16 billion Euros

In addition to the direct economic contribution (16 Billion Euros), hunters' voluntary work to protect and manage species and habitats also contributes to the development of Europe's rural areas by providing alternative employment, increasing the social fabric of rural communities, and transmitting cultural identity and traditions.

29 September, 2016 Brussels – During a conference held on Tuesday at the European Parliament, FACE explained that hunting is worth 16 billion Euros for the European economy. Europe's 7 million hunters spend this aggregated amount annually in licenses, leases, firearms and ammunition, equipment and travel. Their contribution, however, also extends to society and to the conservation of nature with countless actions to manage 65% of the EU's territory in activities related to habitat enhancement, reducing wildlife conflict and damage and monitoring, all of which support for rural development.

The conference "The Economic Value of Hunting in the EU" was attended by Members of the European Parliament and officials, industry representatives and delegates from the European associations representing today's 7 million hunters. **MEP Karl-Heinz Florenz**, President of the Parliamentary Intergroup Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside, commented that "Hunting is an important driver for rural and national economies throughout Europe. It is ever more important to recognise this, particularly with regard how Europe's rural regions are changing. We need to recognise the role of sustainable hunting because it contributes to Europe's rural economy, society and countryside".

MEP Renata Briano, Vice-President of the Hunting Intergroup, highlighted that "the impact of hunting on national economies and the European economy is decisive and must be taken into proper consideration and integrated into future national policies related to biodiversity and rural development".

The President of FACE **Michl Ebner** expounded the figures from various studies conducted in Italy, Austria, England, Greece, France and Ireland claiming that an integrated methodology would provide an even more accurate picture of the economic contribution of the hunters. "If we consider direct expenses and voluntary work hunting could be worth 32 Billion Euros. But this is a conservative estimate requiring better methodologies". In fact it could be worth from 9.8 to 13 Billion Euros more depending on how figures are gathered.

In conclusion, President **Michl Ebner** stated "In order to better assess the economic value of hunting we urge the Commission to entrust EUROSTAT to survey, at five-year intervals, the economic impact of hunting, fishing, watching and gathering wild species as an EU indicator of sustainable use for assessing the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity".

Hunting in all its complexity cannot only be measured in monetary terms. In fact, hunting must also be considered as an ecosystem service that produces intangible benefits for the economy and countryside of rural Europe by providing alternative sustainable employment, increasing quality of life and transmitting cultural identity and traditions.

The panel was also composed of **Alain Durand**, Vice-President of the *Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs*, **Kate Ives**, BASC Senior Business Intelligence, and **Manfred Kind**, CEO of AKAH.

Pictures, presentations and other information are available on www.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 organisation. FACE is made up of national hunters' associations from 36 European countries including the EU-28. FACE is supported by 7 associate members and is based in Brussels.

FACE is the largest democratically representative body for hunters in the world, with elections for its statutory bodies taking place every three years. Each country represented within FACE receives one vote.

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.

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