



# PRESS RELEASE

FACE: EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR HUNTING & CONSERVATION

## The Return of the Wolf to the European Landscape: Challenges and Solutions

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

### PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – Wolves are making their comeback to the European landscape. While the increase of the European wolf population is certainly a success story due to the good implementation of the Habitats Directive, the presence of this large carnivore raises new challenges in places where it had not been sighted for almost a century and asks for solutions to the growing number of conflicts it is causing. 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.

Against this backdrop the Intergroup on “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside” of the European Parliament will organize a conference on September 15<sup>th</sup> 2015 on the Return of the Wolf to the European Landscape: Challenges and solutions.

The aim of the conference is 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.

MEP Karl-Heinz Florenz (EPP) Intergroup President said: *“Fairytale aside, we must avoid the situation, where wolves lose their natural wariness towards humans. When the media will report on the first serious incident, the “welcome back wolf-attitude” will disappear. This is exactly what we are trying to prevent by promoting a reasonable approach to managing the return of the wolf to the European landscape.”* Mr Florenz will introduce the event which will be chaired by MEP Bendt BENDTSEN (EPP).



## **PRESS RELEASE: THE RETURN OF THE WOLF TO THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS**

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)

The conference will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2015; in the European Parliament, Room PHS 7C 050 at 11:30 am.

### **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 by the European Union, 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. Farmers are calling for action to be taken to control reproduction of the species in order to protect livestock and promote easier cohabitation.

### **To register to the event:**

Please send an email to Cecilia Luetgebrune: [cecilia.luetgebrune@face.eu](mailto:cecilia.luetgebrune@face.eu)



## **PRESS RELEASE: THE RETURN OF THE WOLF TO THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS**

### **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 35 European countries including the EU-28. FACE also has 5 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](http://www.face.eu)

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

Mayssa Vande Vyvre, Communication Officer, [mayssa.vandevyvre@face.eu](mailto:mayssa.vandevyvre@face.eu) T: +32 (0) 2 732 6900.

