



THE VOICE OF EUROPEAN HUNTERS

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FACE Position on Falconry

Recognising that the ancient art of falconry, which is a hunting tradition defined as taking quarry in its natural state and habitat by means of trained birds of prey, has enjoyed a long history dating back over 4000 years to the present day.

Considering that falconry is currently practised in over 100 countries on six continents.

Appreciating that falconry has been recognised by the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) since 2010 with national inscription in 29 countries.

Acknowledging that falconers actively engage in bird of prey research, rehabilitation, translocation and reintroduction projects as well as education and awareness-raising, habitat management for prey species and birds of prey, population monitoring, and combatting illegal killing and taking of birds of prey.

Further recognising that Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds ("the Birds Directive") makes explicit reference to falconry as a hunting method and provides the legal framework for the small-scale take of wild birds of prey for falconry.

Understanding that the International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) currently has 112 associations from 90 countries worldwide totalling 75,000 members.

Having regard to the Memorandum of Understanding between FACE and IAF as well as the active role of IAF in promoting the conservation of birds of prey through various international conventions and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Accepting that falconry enjoys high social acceptance within and outside the hunting community.

FACE and its Members, at its General Assembly on 24 September 2021, agree:

1. To promote the continued growth of falconry in Europe as a hunting art, which safeguards cultural heritage, bringing important conservation and socio-economic benefits.
2. To invite national or regional authorities to maintain or introduce (where falconry is not yet present) legal frameworks to allow and promote falconry.
3. To support the traditional sustainable and judicious use of wild birds of prey for falconry as described in the Birds Directive.
4. To encourage cooperation and solidarity between national hunting organisations and their falconry organisations to ensure the viability of falconry as sustainable hunting and part of a common hunting heritage.