



THE VOICE OF EUROPEAN HUNTERS

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FACE position on hunting tourism

Recognising that European hunters sometimes travel to other countries to hunt, which can be referred to as “hunting tourism”.

Further recognising that the legal frameworks for hunting in Europe are designed in accordance with the principles of sustainable use in line with European law.

Highlighting that the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity¹, adopted under the Bern Convention, provides specific guidance on hunting and conservation in Europe, which appropriately applies to hunting tourism.

Recognising the work under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the revised resolution 11.16 adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 14th Meeting, on the prevention of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds, which encourages Parties and non-Parties to share best practice guidance for hunting tourism companies.

Understanding that hunting tourism takes place in most European countries but often occurs at a small scale.

Acknowledging that hunting tourism can provide numerous benefits to local communities, fostering a balance between conservation, economics, and sustainable management practices. In this context, the following values should be considered:

Sustainable Management: Hunting tourism can support the management of wildlife populations. For example, hunting tourism is often used to help manage abundant species, preventing damage to ecosystems and helping maintain biodiversity while creating value.

Cultural and Traditional Values: Hunting’s diversity in Europe is a long-standing tradition and an essential part of culture and identity. Hunting tourism benefits from and can help to preserve this heritage.

Economic Benefits: Hunting tourism typically provides jobs in rural areas, revenue for local communities, and funding for wildlife conservation efforts.

¹ European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity: <https://rm.coe.int/168074649f>

Conservation: Hunters' money can help fund wildlife conservation projects and preserve habitats that might otherwise be at risk. In this context, hunting tourism can provide an economic incentive to maintain wildlife habitats.

Low-Impact Activity: Hunting typically has a very low impact on natural landscapes, as it does not require the infrastructure and other needs of traditional tourism.

Education: Hunting tourism can offer visitors a chance to learn about local cultures, conservation efforts, and wildlife management practices, fostering respect and awareness for local ecosystems and the importance of conservation.

FACE and its Members at the FACE General Assembly on 1 October 2025 agree to encourage hunters and hunting providers (i.e. operators) to follow the key principles of the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity, including:

- Ensuring that harvest is ecologically sustainable (Principle 3);
- Maintaining wild populations of indigenous species with adaptive gene pools (Principle 4);
- Maintaining environments that support healthy and robust populations of harvestable species (Principle 5);
- Encouraging use to provide economic incentives for conservation (Principle 6);
- Empowering local stakeholders and holding them accountable (Principle 9).
- Further emphasising that hunting tourism should respect and complement domestic hunting practices, which are deeply rooted in local culture and society.