



ACTIVITY REPORT 2019

European Federation for Hunting and Conservation




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FACE is the European Federation for Hunting and Conservation. Established in 1977, FACE represents the interests of Europe's 7 million hunters as an international non-profit-making non-governmental organisation. This makes FACE the largest democratically representative body for hunters in the world and probably one of the largest European civil society organisations.

FACE is made up of its Members: national hunters' associations from 37 European countries including the EU-27. FACE also has 7 Associate Members and has its Secretariat in Brussels.

FACE upholds the principle of sustainable use and has been a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 1987. FACE works with its partners on a range of hunting-and conservation-related matters, from international conservation agreements to local implementation issues with the aim of sustaining hunting across Europe.

PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



Dear Members and Partners,

I was elected FACE President in September 2018 with a mandate to develop a stronger FACE. One of my main priorities is to place a strong focus on FACE's Mission, Vision, Strategy and I am delighted to see how this important work has been integrated into FACE's daily work. This ensures that FACE remains strong in defending and promoting hunting and conservation, including Europe's unique regional hunting traditions.

2019 was another very busy year for FACE that required engagement in policy discussions relating to the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the updating of important EU guidance documents, including guidance that affects large carnivore management and the hunting seasons for migratory birds. FACE was also actively engaged in the policy discussions on eradicating African swine fever in wild boar.

In terms of FACE's conservation programme, CAP reform demands serious attention from FACE and its Members to ensure that we improve the conditions for small game hunting in Europe. European hunters demanded clear priorities for farming post 2020, including halting biodiversity losses, and improving the conditions for small game.

2019 was also a year of great strategic importance to European hunters in which a new European Parliament (EP) was elected. FACE focused on successfully re-establishing its EP's 'Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside' Intergroup. This was a major programme for work for FACE that resulted in attracting the support of 140 Members of the European Parliament. FACE Members are well aware that the position of the European Union dominates the international policy agenda, affecting hunting and conservation in all European countries.

FACE is nothing without its Members and we must work together to ensure the interests of all of Europe's 7 million hunters are at the centre when decisions are made with regard to hunting and wildlife management. Outside of specific requests from the secretariat you can help in many ways, for example, by uploading new projects on www.biodiversitymanifesto.com, which improves FACE's knowledge base.

For your continuous support we are very grateful!

Torbjörn Larsson
FACE President



THE FACE SECRETARIAT

The FACE Team is based in Brussels and makes up the Secretariat. This team combines a passion for hunting and conservation with expertise in a range of key areas to protect hunting in Europe.

2019 STAFF

SECRETARY GENERAL

Dr. David Scallan

ADMINISTRATION

Charlotte Nyffels
Office and Business Manager

Sandrine Dehoux
*Office and Business Manager
acting (until 10/2019)*

CONSERVATION

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*Senior Conservation Manager
(until 04/2019)*

Cy Griffin
*Senior Conservation Manager
(from 09/2019)*

Roderick Enzerink
Wildlife Policy Officer (until 05/2019)

Daniel Švrčula
Conservation Policy Assistant

Annemie Rose Janssen
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Sabrina Dietz
Wildlife Policy Assistant

LEGAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Public Affairs Manager (until 04/2019)

Roderick Enzerink
Public Affairs Manager (from 05/2019)

Tom Van de Maele
Legal Affairs Officer (until 10/2019)

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Communication Manager

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Sabine Borgers-Guse
Senior Translator

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Communication and Policy Assistant



FACE MEMBERS

FACE works with its Members, partners and the EU institutions to facilitate understanding, action and information exchange through regular meetings with its Members, as well as with the European Parliament and the European Commission.

FACE is nowhere without its Members.

FACE Members encompass the expertise, knowledge, structures and influence that make up European hunting. FACE is made up of national hunters' associations from 37 European countries, including the 27 EU Member States as well as other countries Members of the Council of Europe.

FULL MEMBERS

Albania: Federata Kombetare Shqiptare per Gjueti dhe Konservim

Austria: Jagd Österreich

Belgium: Asbl wallonne du Royal Saint-Hubert Club de Belgique

Belgium: Hubertus Vereniging Vlaanderen vzw

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Lovački Savez Herceg Bosne (LSHB)

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Lovački Savez Republike Srpska (LSRS)

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Savez Lovačkih organizacija BiH (SLOBiH)

Bulgaria: Съюз на ловците и риболовците в България

Croatia: Hrvatski Lovački Savez

Cyprus: Κυπριακή Ομοσπονδία Κυνηγίου Και Διαθρησκής Αγριας Ζωης

Czech Republic: Ceskomoravská Myslivecká Jednota (CMMJ)

Denmark: Danmarks Jægerforbund

Estonia: Eesti Jahimeeste Selts

Finland: Metsästäjäliitto

France: Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs

Germany: Deutscher Jagdverband

Greece: Κυνηγική Συνομοσπονδία Ελλάδος

Hungary: Országos Magyar Vadászkamara

Hungary: Országos Magyar Vadászati Védegylet

Iceland: Skotveiðifélag Íslands

Ireland: FACE Ireland c/o National Association of Regional Game Councils (NARGC)

Italy: FACE Italia

Latvia: Latvijas Mednieku Asociācija

Lithuania: Lietuvos Medžiotojų ir Žvejų Draugija

Luxembourg: Fédération Saint-Hubert des Chasseurs du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg asbl

Malta: Federazzjoni Kaċċaturi Nassaba Konservazzjonisti (FKNK)

Montenegro: Lovački Savez Crne Gore

Netherlands: Koninklijke Nederlandse Jagersvereniging

Norway: Norges Jeger- og Fiskerforbund

Poland: Polski Związek Łowiecki

Portugal: Federação Portuguesa de Caça (FENCAÇA)

Romania: Asociația Generală a Vânătorilor și Pescarilor Sportivi (AGVPS)

San Marino: Federazione Sammarinese della Caccia

Serbia: Lovački Savez Srbije

Slovakia: Slovenská poľovnícka komora

Slovakia: Slovenský Poľovnícky Zväz

Slovenia: Lovska zveza Slovenije

Spain: Real Federación Española de Caza (RFEC)

Sweden: Svenska Jägareförbundet

Switzerland: JagdSchweiz / ChasseSuisse / CacciaSvizzera / CatschaSvizra

Turkey: Türkiye Atıcılık ve Avcılık Federasyonu

United Kingdom: FACE UK

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

European Association of the Civil Commerce of Weapons (AECAC)

Association of European Manufacturers of Sporting Firearms (ESFAM)

Safari Club International (SCI)

Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF)

European Bowhunting Federation (EBF)

Conservation Force

Dallas Safari Club (DSC)

OTHER MEMBERS

Honorary Presidents

Giovanni BANA, Gilbert de TURCKHEIM.

Honorary Members

Jochen BORCHERT, Dr. Michl EBNER, John GARDINER, Martin HØJSGAARD, Yves LECOCQ, Torstein MOLAND, John Anthony SWIFT.

PARTNERS

European Association of Traditional Hunts (AECT)

European Institute for the Management of Wild Birds and their Habitats (OMPO)

Nordic Hunters' Alliance (NHA)

BOARD

President, **T. LARSSON**

Treasurer General, **L. HOEDEMAKER**

Vice-President, Germany, **V. BÖHNING**

Vice-President, Italy, **G.L. DALL'OLIO**

Vice-President, Central Region, **S. ŽERJAV**

Vice-President, France, **A. DURAND**

Vice-President, United Kingdom, **I. BELL**

Vice-President, Baltic Region, **L. DOMBROVSKA**

Vice-President, Mediterranean Region, **L. FARRUGIA**

Vice-President, Atlantic Region, **J. FLANNERY**

Vice-President, Nordic Region, **K. A. GJEMS**

Vice-President, Poland, **J. KUCZAJ**

Vice-President, Spain, **I. VALLE LÓPEZ-DÓRIGA**

Vice-President, South-East Region, **V. VASILEV**

BUREAU

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INTERGROUP “BIODIVERSITY, HUNTING, COUNTRYSIDE”



As one of the oldest and most active parliamentary platforms, the European Parliament Intergroup “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside” works as an active stakeholder platform within the European Parliament, enabling open discussions between decision-makers, the European Commission and experts, aiming to affirm the crucial role of rural actors and the socio-economic importance of hunting and countryside activities.

With a large network of actively supporting MEPs from all political groups, the Intergroup promotes the role of hunting and other forms of sustainable use of natural resources. FACE has provided the Secretariat for this Intergroup since its first establishment in 1985, while the European Landowners’ Organization serves as co-secretariat since 2004.

It tackles topics related to biodiversity, wildlife management, rural development and forestry and discusses current subjects whilst building the bridge between civil society and decision makers.

5 March 2019 - Managing predators for the conservation of bird species, European Parliament



19 March 2019 - Recollections of 30 years of environmental and climate policy: Farewell event of MEP Karl-Heinz Florenz, Intergroup’s President since 2019



May 2019 - FACE EU Election Campaign:

The European Parliament makes critical decisions for hunters across Europe. It is our direct voice into the European policy-making process, but it can also be an anti-hunting voice. In preparation for the European elections, FACE launched a successful election campaign. FACE followed this plan via: Dedicated website, Internal Letters, Election Manifesto.



#VOTE4HUNTING Campaign

FACE created a unique webpage covering all aspects of hunters' priorities in the European Parliament. It created a hub where Members and the public alike could find information, policy statements and facts on key hunting topics. It helped spread awareness to promote and protect hunting. Along with this there was a social media campaign on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram that reached over 68,000 people. This was strengthened with the unique hashtag #VOTE4HUNTING.

www.face.eu/european-elections/



FACE Manifesto for the 2019 European Parliament Elections

The European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE) and the European Parliament's Hunting Intergroup invite you to support the following hunting-related policy statements:

Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) and Biodiversity
European hunters are aware that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is a crucial support mechanism for agriculture and rural areas in Europe. FACE is calling for the next CAP after 2020 to be stronger on biodiversity, in particular for small game populations, which have reduced due to changes in farming.

Large carnivores
Many large carnivore populations are increasing and some do not qualify for strict protection anymore under the Habitats Directive. Their protection status should be dropped as soon as the desired conservation status is reached. This will allow Member States to have a more meaningful management of large carnivores in line with regional and local needs.

Firearms and Ammunition
FACE and its Members seek to ensure that hunters can acquire, possess, use and travel with firearms and ammunition safely and without unjustified bureaucracy, costs or restrictions.

Migratory Birds
The next European Parliament should work to promote more flexibility in the management of abundant goose populations. Furthermore, regional and traditional hunting methods must be respected under the Birds Directive.

International Hunting
European hunters do not only hunt in Europe, but also in Africa and Asia. The multiple benefits, for example, to local communities and nature conservation, of international hunting must be sustained into the future.

European Parliament's "Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside" Intergroup
Intergroups consist of MEPs from different political groups and countries with a common interest in a particular subject. The "Hunting" Intergroup was created in 1983 and is one of the oldest and most active in the European Parliament. MEPs from across the political spectrum are invited to lend their support and take part in the debates.

Established in 1977, FACE represents in Brussels 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 and is supported by 7 associate members.

_____ supports these policy statements and the re-establishment of a "Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside" Intergroup in the next European Parliament

Call-to-action: Letters for the FACE Members

At the same time, FACE sent a letter to its Members with two annexes. The first annex had an overview with the dates of the elections in all the EU countries. The second annex had a series of topics and related draft questions that FACE prepared FACE Members to pose to candidates for the European Parliament. The idea was that these questions and answers would then be used in hunting media (hunting magazine/website) and the Members own publications.

FACE Election Manifesto for the 2019 European Parliament Elections

The last key action was the drafting of the FACE Manifesto for the European Parliament elections. This gave hunters the opportunity to ask their candidate MEPs to sign the manifesto and ensure that hunting related policies would be supported. The success of the campaign saw many other hunting federations creating their own similar campaign. This proved invaluable as it in part acted as a springboard to the re-establishment of the European Parliament hunting intergroup.



Torbjörn Larsson, President of FACE, stated: "Europe is facing many challenges regarding biodiversity, sustainable land use and wildlife management as well as climate change. Hunters and rural actors are key actors for the implementation of successful environmental policies. We need a platform to discuss dedicated actions to conserve biodiversity and ensure a living countryside"



September-December 2019 - FACE met MEPs in Strasbourg to raise support for the Intergroup

The FACE Public Affairs Team was frequently in Strasbourg to meet Members of European Parliament to raise support on the re-establishment of the “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside” Intergroup.

The meetings were focused on the most pressing hunting-related issues including: large carnivores, Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), biodiversity strategy, ammunition, Brexit, African Swine Fever (ASF).

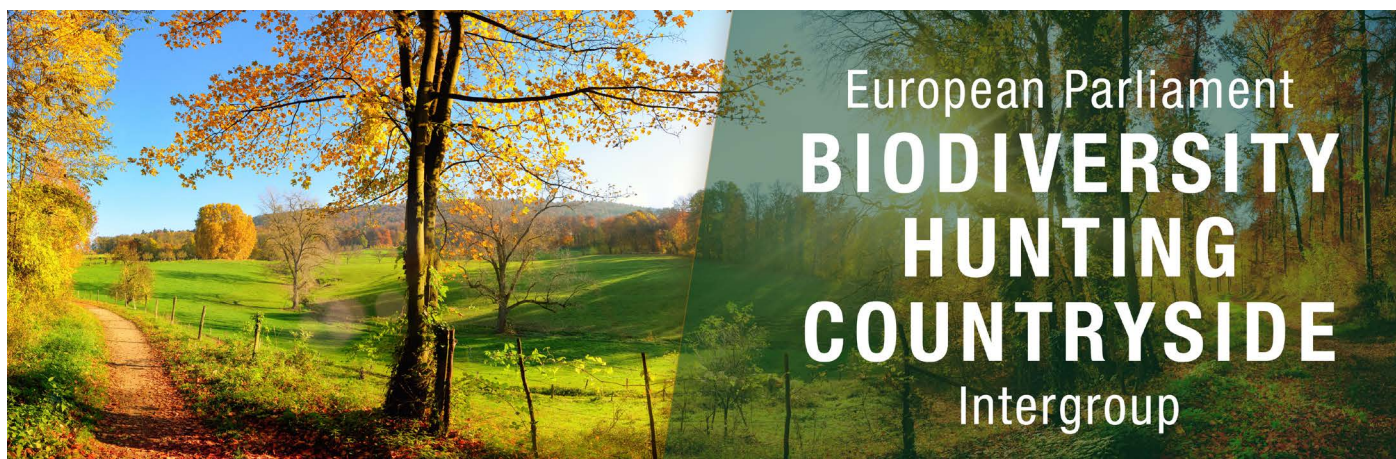
19 December 2019 – Intergroup “Biodiversity, Hunting and Countryside” Approved

More than 140 MEPs supported the re-establishment of the European Parliament **Intergroup “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside”**. Sustainable land use and biodiversity conservation are high on the agenda of EU citizens, including Europe’s landowners and managers, hunters, as well as the

newly elected European Parliament.

Following the announcement of the European Commission’s new EU Green Deal in the European Parliament, the **Conference of Presidents** approved the list of the Parliamentary Intergroups for its next mandate. The “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside” Intergroup was one of those approved, out of a very long list of proposals. The re-establishment of this Intergroup gives a strong political signal from the Members of the European Parliament to support key activities in Europe’s rural areas for biodiversity.

MEP Alvaro Amaro (EPP, PT) played a key role in the reconstitution of the Intergroup, coordinating the work which lead to this positive result, stated: *“This approval sends a clear signal of support for biodiversity, hunting and the European countryside. The Intergroup will facilitate discussions on the challenges and solutions in conserving biodiversity by stimulating good practices through agriculture, forestry, land use and hunting. These actions should be at the centre of the international scene, especially for their role in conserving biodiversity and the rural way of life.”*





FACE ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS 2019

29 January to 3 February 2019 - FACE Presence at Fairs: JAGD & HUND, Dortmund, Germany and HIT Show Vicenza, Italy

The JAGD & HUND hunting fair in Germany is Europe's largest hunting exhibition. In conjunction with the exhibition, FACE organised Bureau and Board meetings and a successful conference on ASF in wild boar. The FACE Bureau met with the Board of Deutscher Jagdverband for a joint meeting on European hunting issues relevant for Germany. FACE President, Torbjörn Larsson also delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony.



22 February 2019 - MEP Annie Schreijer-Pierik visits PARTRIDGE-site at Oude Doorn, Netherlands



The Grey Partridge is an iconic species of the Dutch farmlands. Unfortunately, this bird is slowly disappearing due to changes in farming practices. In the EU funded PARTRIDGE project farmers, birders

and hunters alike are conserving this species and wider biodiversity on farmland. To share these experiences, FACE's Wildlife Policy Officer, Roderick Enzerink organised a field visit for Dutch Member of the European Parliament Annie Schreijer-Pierik. The visit was organised with the project partners: Vogelbescherming Nederland, Brabant Landschap, and with the Royal Dutch Hunting Association. It was also attended by local farmers, hunters and politicians from the province Noord-Brabant.

9 March 2019 - AECT and traditional bird hunting

At the General Assembly of AECT (European Association of Traditional Hunts) in Marseille, France, AECT Members strive to defend their cultural heritage – sometimes dating back to Antiquity.

Traditional hunting methods sometimes face criticism, but it is important to note that they can have a positive impact on biodiversity, preserving intangible cultural heritage and support scientific-based knowledge.

FACE's took the opportunity to provide information about FACE's manifesto for the upcoming European elections as well as FACE's work on traditional hunting practices with regard to European Commission infringements (current/recent).



19 March 2019 - European farmers and wolves: Sustain damage or actively manage?

The increased presence of protected large carnivores has led to significant economic damage to livestock farmers and is putting traditional pastoralism, the local economy and biodiversity at risk. This was a main message coming from the conference organised by COPA COGECA, which represents European farmers and agri-cooperatives, in the European Parliament.



The agriculture ministers from Finland and Romania, joined by the vice-minister of agriculture of Croatia, all called for a change in the approach towards the protection of large carnivores. They all stressed the need for an amendment procedure for the annexes (levels of protection) of the Habitats Directive. MEP Katainen, Andrieu, Zoana and Petir supported this call for more flexibility in the protection status, to protect farmers and hunters.

27 March 2019 - FACE presence at FACE Member meetings: France and the UK

FACE President, Torbjörn Larsson and FACE Secretary General, Dr. David Scallan were invited to attend two FACE Member meetings: FNC's General Assembly in Paris and FACE UK's general meeting in London. In Paris, it was a great opportunity for FACE to get a better understanding of FNC's substantial work in defending and promoting hunting for over 1 million French hunters. Following a keynote address by FNC President,

Willy Schraen, the attendees heard from several distinguished guests, including four French Ministers.

In London, FACE UK discussed the key issues relevant to shooting and hunting in the UK. The meeting also provided an opportunity for FACE to deliver updates on the potential impacts on Brexit on hunting in the UK and Europe.



11 April 2019 – Setting the priorities for hunting and conservation in Europe – FACE Members' Meeting 2019

For two days, the Royal Dutch Hunting Association – Koninklijke Nederlandse Jagersvereniging – hosted the 2019 FACE Members' Meeting in the Netherlands. The main event was the first European Hunters Conference: 'Wild' challenges for hunting and conservation, where a series of high-level panels discussed the hottest topics facing European hunters. These included the future of lead in ammunition, large carnivore management, African swine fever in wild boar, ensuring



the sustainability of migratory bird hunting and the upcoming European elections.

18 April 2019 - UNESCO consultation meeting for Non-Governmental Organisations

The UN held a UNESCO consultation meeting on the role of accredited non-governmental organisations within UNESCO. For FACE, UNESCO can provide important recognition of the cultural dimensions of hunting. Thus far, hunting culture has national recognition in some European countries and traditional bird trapping is recognised by UNESCO in Austria. Falconry is another prime example of Intangible Cultural Heritage recognised by UNESCO at the international level and by more than 18 countries. Falconry is practiced all around the world in all different cultures dating back over 7.000 years.

1-4 May 2019 - CIC General Assembly in Namibia

The 66th General Assembly of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) took place, in Windhoek, Namibia. CIC took a new approach to their General Assembly and organised a conference with the theme 'Crossroads – Leading the Way for Wildlife Conservation'. FACE took part in the conference and used this opportunity to meet the global leaders in wildlife conservation.



24 July 2019 - FACE Baltic Region meeting

The FACE Baltic Region Members (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia) held a meeting in Riga, Latvia with the national hunting association from Belarus to discuss national developments and promote regional coordination.

The Baltic Region FACE Members are working on pioneering methods and tools to eradicate African swine fever in wild boar; managing large carnivores using best practice hunting management approaches and are promoting hunting to younger generations, including female hunters. They are also working to conserve their rich biodiversity and huntable species, in the face of some mis-informed opposition to hunting.



13 November 2019 - FACE invitation to speak at Cercle Gaston Phoebus, France

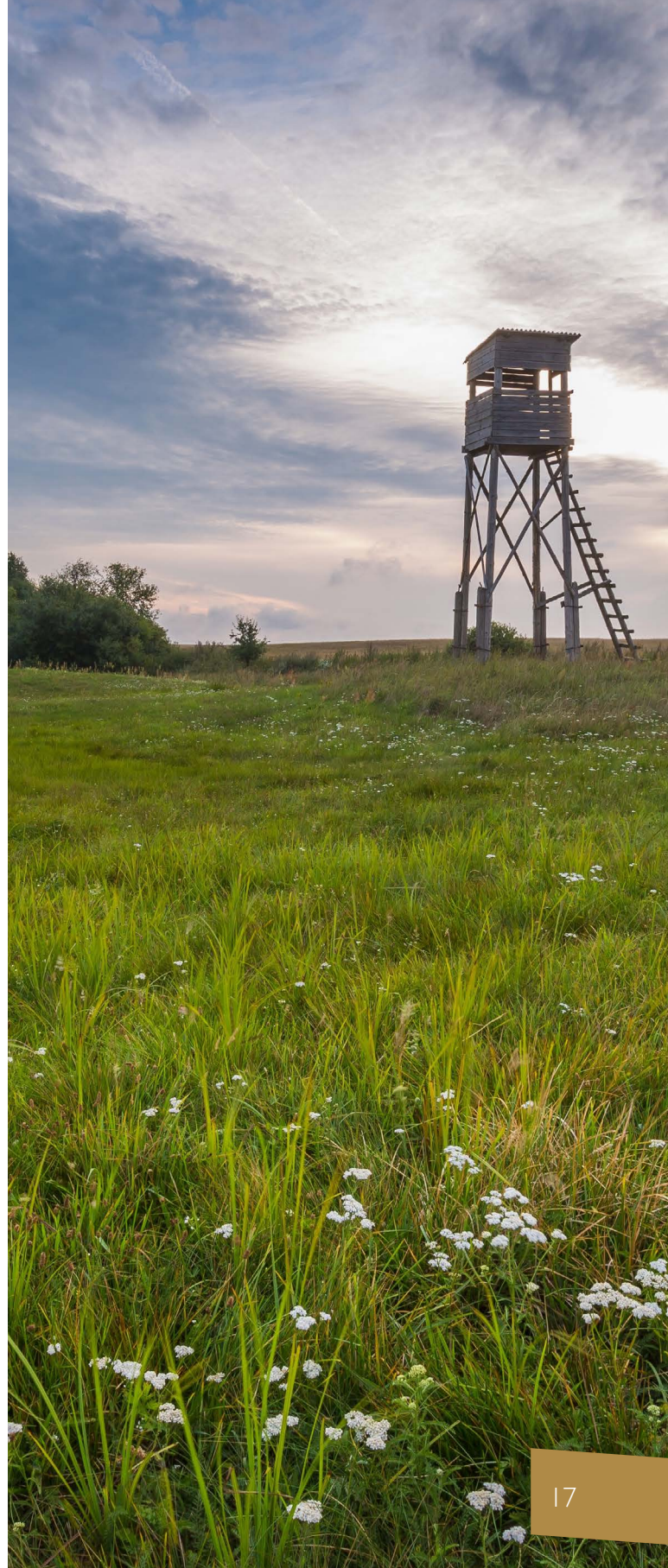
FACE President, Torbjörn Larsson was invited to address the members of an important French club for hunting and shooting, the Cercle Gaston Phoebus. This club was created 25 years ago and has 100 Members, mainly hunters from industry, finance, media, press, public services arenas, CEOs, journalists and presidents/board Members of national hunting associations.



The focus of the discussion was on FACE's work in Brussels and the threats and opportunities for hunting at the international level.

26 November 2019 - FACE meeting with Polish Environment ministry

Senior officials of the Polish Environment Ministry including the Secretary of State for Environment and the Vice Minister for Environment met with Dr. David Scallan and FACE Vice President for Poland Mr. Jarosław Kuczaj to discuss several topics for the Polish Hunting Association.





10 December 2019 - European Hunters and Sporting Firearms Manufacturers met MEPS and EU Officials at the 5th FACE Christmas Dinner

The annual Christmas dinner organised by FACE and the Association of European Manufacturers of Sporting Firearms (ESFAM) has been the occasion for hunters and producers of sporting and hunting firearms to meet Members of the European Parliament, officials from the European Commission and representatives from other stakeholder organisations.

The event registered the active presence and support of many Members of the European Parliament from different political groups (EPP, S&D, Renew Europe, I&D, ECR).

Participants also had the opportunity to test their shooting skills with SimWay Hunt, the world's most advanced interactive simulator for hunting and target shooting, perfect tool for education and training.



COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP



2019, was a successful year for FACE's communication. FACE has made large efforts to promote the status of hunters; via social media, attending events, keeping closer relations with our members and holding the Communication Working group. Communication experts within the FACE Membership meet twice a year to reflect on how to improve FACE internal and external communication.

On 15 February, communication experts from many European hunting associations met in Tallinn for the FACE Communication Working Group to better coordinate their efforts for an effective communication at the European level.

Christopher Graffius, Communication Director at **BASC UK**, chaired the discussions, which were aimed at establishing a new coordinated strategy to facilitate the cooperation amongst FACE Members when EU-wide actions are required. The Communication Working Group produced a toolkit which will help FACE Members to proactively communicate their messages to relevant audiences.

Another main point under discussion was the European elections.



FACE Communication strategy day

On 16 July, FACE staff dedicated one day to come up with ways to improve FACE's communication strategy. With a focus on FACE's mission, vision and core values, we profiled different categories of audiences, identified communication channels and resources to better reach them. In doing so, the team focused on FACE's work plan deliverables.



With its vast expertise and strong network in Brussels, FACE is the only organisation that communicates hunters' needs towards the European institutions. These institutions are important because they develop 80% of the rules affecting hunting and conservation in Europe. Input from FACE Members and financial resources are important factors in an effective communication strategy.

On 2 October, communication experts from many European hunting associations met in Brussels for the FACE Communication Working Group to better coordinate their efforts for an effective communication at the European level.



Christopher Graffius, chaired the discussions, which were aimed at promoting youth in hunting in Europe and establishing a network of FACE Members to exchange good-practices on this topic. The Communication Working Group will produce a document with an overview of promoting youth in hunting in Europe and the main types of programmes to encourage youth in hunting.

Another main point under discussion was launching an European-wide campaign on the FACE Biodiversity Manifesto for promoting the conservation role of hunters in Europe. FACE communication experts also exchanged ideas on how national/regional campaigns to defend hunting should be ran in order to be successful.





MIGRATORY BIRDS

Introduction

FACE was founded in 1977 by national hunting associations in Europe to take part in the process of shaping the EU Birds Directive by providing hunters' extensive knowledge of nature and the governance of hunting. A similar role was taken at

international level, with FACE's involvement, together with other partners in the establishment of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) in the 1990s. Since those early days, FACE has remained very close to its origins by engaging with

these legal instruments as well as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). FACE continues to respond to the challenges of conserving migratory birds and ensuring sustainable hunting of the species which we cherish.



Strengthened international cooperation to help migratory birds

FACE was delighted to participate in a meeting on huntable migratory waterbirds with 18 representatives from 7 countries in northern Europe from 8-9 May 2019 in Billund, Denmark. The meeting, which was organised by the Danish Hunters' Association, focused on improving the management of huntable birds across national borders.

The participants agreed on a common northern European agenda focusing on data collection, sustainable harvesting and improving the habitat (including predator management) for migratory birds. Furthermore, the foundation for an action



plan was laid out. FACE was pleased to see so much potential within this group to agree on a serious work plan to support the initiatives discussed.

Visit: www.waterfowlersnetwork.com

Huntable Ducks

Many European duck species are receiving increasing attention through new action plans (e.g. Velvet Scoter). The status of many populations under AEWA changed in recent years (e.g. Pochard and Eider Duck) and in some cases hunting will be affected. Population trends of some common ducks are now decreasing (e.g. Wigeon). It is therefore very important that FACE remains updated with the latest science and knowledge and engages in international discussions on conservation and sustainable use.

The AEWA Technical Committee brings together scientific and technical experts to assist the AEWA Secretariat and signatory



Governments in implementing the agreement. Tasks arising include harvest bag collection and action/management planning for huntable waterbirds. Ongoing which need to be updated, are the monitoring and reporting on conservation status of waterbird species. FACE provided support and input into the discussions on these items at the AEWG Technical Committee meeting, which was from 9-11 April 2019, in Bonn, Germany.

European Goose management

FACE participated in the 4th meeting of the AEWG European Goose Management Platform, taking place on 18-20 June 2019, in Perth, Scotland. FACE is a long-time supporter of this platform and contributed to the discussions and decisions, with the aim of sustaining future hunting opportunities and to contribute to the wider management of Europe's increasing goose populations and the conflicts associated with them.



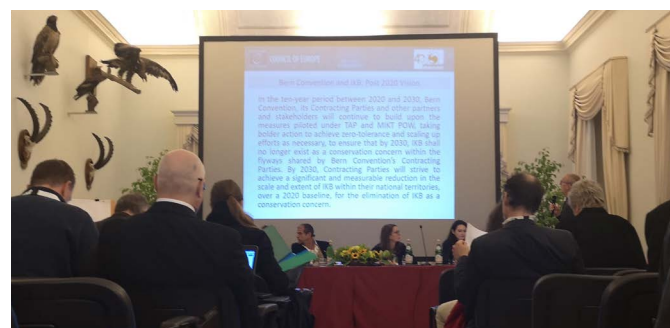
Since 2016, European countries are working together to coordinate goose management, and specifically hunting, internationally. This is done for the Taiga Bean Goose, a species which has been declining and for which hunting is possible, within an international quota, but also for abundant species like the Pink-footed Goose, the Greylag Goose and the Barnacle Goose, mostly to limit damage to agriculture and sensitive habitats.

The Greylag Goose and Barnacle Goose international management plans were adopted by the AEWG parties in December 2018. During the meeting in Scotland, the implementation of these plans, and specifically the levels on which the countries want to manage the goose populations was discussed.

Combatting Illegal Killing of Birds (IKB)

For FACE, sustainable hunting is not a problem for illegal bird killing, but illegal bird killing is a problem for sustainable hunting!

During 2019, FACE continued to follow developments under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Wild Birds



in the Mediterranean (MIKT), which makes progress towards eradicating illegal killing of birds (IKB).

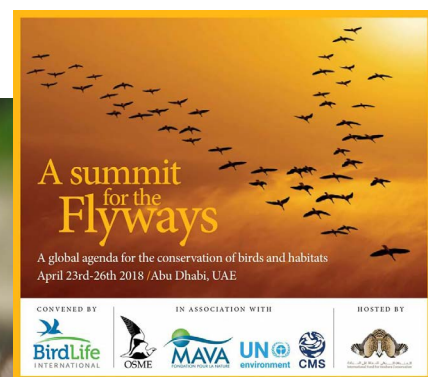
FACE has a long-standing zero-tolerance policy on wildlife crime including IKB. From 8 to 10 May 2019, FACE participated in the joint meeting of the Bern Convention and MIKT in Rome, Italy. Roderick Enzerink delivered a presentation outlining the various activities carried out by FACE Members in the fight against IKB. These include the involvement of hunters in voluntary enforcement, public condemnation of IKB by hunting associations, the organisation of various educational initiatives and the promotion of non-binding charters, such as the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity.

FACE also attended the IMPEL Green Expert team meeting in Croatia on 11 and 12 November 2019. One of the projects currently running by IMPEL is focused on hunting tourism. The main focus for IMPEL Network is to ensure that any illegal activities are identified and combatted.

Hunting periods for migratory birds – Key Concepts

The European Commission (EC) started a process to update the hunting periods for migratory birds (Key Concepts document) in July 2018. This update is important because the dates of spring migration (and the closure of hunting seasons) are often incoherent between adjacent EU countries or rely on poor data. Most Member States have now submitted data/studies at national level on the periods of reproduction and spring migration to the EC.

During the revision process, FACE made it clear to the EC that it supports a flyway- and science-based approach for all species, in particular, with use of the best available science (such as peer-reviewed studies). Several problems emerged during this process mainly from the Italian Environment Ministry.





LARGE CARNIVORES

The European hunting community is an active player in large carnivore conservation and management, directly contributing to their monitoring as well as to the management of their habitats and prey across our continent. In Europe's densely populated multi-functional landscapes, humans and large carnivores need to find a way to coexist; hunters are - and must be - part of the solution.

With this in mind, FACE works at several levels to promote large carnivore management and conservation based on scientific knowledge on populations, as well as taking into account the human dimension so as to effectively reduce conflicts.

EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores

This Platform was established to promote ways and means to minimise, and wherever possible find solutions to, conflicts between human interests and the presence of large carnivore species. FACE is an active partner in this initiative.

FACE is one of the founding Members of the EU platform on large carnivores. It is an important opportunity to link with other stakeholders, share information and keep being informed on important work on this topic. In 2019, FACE attended all 4 meetings of the Platform.

The main events linked to the platform in 2019 included:

On 14 February 2019, FACE attended the annual 'kick-off meeting' of the EU platform. Participants mainly discussed the work of the progress with regional platforms around Europe.



The 6th plenary meeting took place on 13 May 2019 in Brussels. FACE was joined by its Members from Sweden and Finland. Among the rolling tasks for the platform, discussions focused on relevant updates on the EU's Common Agricultural Policy reform and large carnivore conservation and the International Union for Conservation of Nature Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe statement on bold wolves.



On 19 of November 2019, the platform held a regional workshop in Miercurea Ciuc (Harghita county) to discuss the bear situation in Romania – especially in this region. FACE, its member AGVPS and the CIC attended the meeting. The national authorities, unfortunately, were not present, limiting the opportunity to reach concrete conclusions on the next steps. The main discussion points were the hunting ban imposed in 2016, the human-bear conflicts, damage prevention systems and (problematic) tourism connected to bear watching.

FACE Large Carnivore Working Group

FACE Members encompass a great amount of knowledge and expertise for a better future for Europe's large carnivores. For large carnivore policy development and implementation – whether within a specific country, at EU or Council of Europe level – FACE ensures that it has adequate up-to-date expertise and knowledge on relevant ecological, legal and socio-economic aspects to provide expert input. FACE uses its network of large

carnivore experts from all around Europe, forming the FACE Large Carnivore Working Group. This Group is instrumental in maintaining and developing FACE's knowledge base and in coordinating the FACE input for EU and other processes.

On 14 May 2019, FACE's working groups on Large Carnivores and Legal Affairs gathered in the FACE office for a joint meeting. The experts discussed FACE's and our Members' work on large carnivores. The legal affairs experts discussed the Opinion of



the Advocate General on the preliminary ruling requested by the Supreme Administrative Court of Finland (Case C-674/17), of which the outcome is expected later this year.

Green light for hunting as a management tool for large carnivores

In its ruling on 10 October 2019, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) confirmed that the use of hunting as a population management tool for strictly protected species is compatible with EU law. The case involved questions for a preliminary ruling by Finland's Supreme Administrative Court to the EU's highest court on the interpretation of derogations under the EU Habitats Directive.

Many EU Member States use hunting as a management tool to ensure a positive long-term ecological contribution to large carnivore populations as well as on public perception. This has also been increasingly documented in social science research. After the publication of the judgement, Dr. David Scallan, FACE Secretary General, stated:

“The most important thing now is that EU Member States apply the Habitats Directive flexibly and pragmatically. FACE and its Members will now perform a more in-depth analysis of all aspects of the ruling in its Large Carnivore Expert Group.”

EU guidance on the species protection revised

In order to provide guidance on species protection (including the management of large carnivores) under the Habitats Directive, the Commission has, in close consultation with Member States, elaborated a “Guidance document on the strict



protection of animal species” in 2007. As part of a process to revise this document, the Commission released a draft version in November 2019, which was reviewed by Member States and stakeholders.

During the reviewing period, FACE proposes a number of edits and stressed the need to include the Latvian Lynx management plan as an example of successful large carnivore management. The situation with Lynx in Latvia is an successful model of how limited and strictly controlled lethal management by hunters can have a positive impact on the population as well as on the social acceptance of large carnivores. It is expected the guidance document will be finalised in 2020.



BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

Introduction

Hunters share a passion for nature and biodiversity, because their future ability to hunt depends on it. This is why hunters engage every day right across Europe to conserve and restore nature and biodiversity.

FACE and its Members adopted the FACE Biodiversity Manifesto, which reflects the active commitment made by European hunters to biodiversity conservation, ensuring the sustainability of hunting for future generations.



The Biodiversity Manifesto

The FACE Biodiversity Manifesto (BDM) shows the contribution of hunting to conservation through concrete examples of initiatives undertaken by hunters through Europe, which benefit wildlife. Each year, FACE develops an implementation report to assess the progress being made in the field. The first (2015) BDM report highlighted hunters' contribution to implementing the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 through its 181 case studies. The second (2016) BDM report demonstrated hunters' contribution to implementing the EU nature directives with almost half of the 221 case studies undertaken on Natura 2000 sites. The 2017 BDM report, based on 300 initiatives, shows hunters' contribution to the conservation of farmland habitats and species. The 2018 report focused on hunters' contribution to the monitoring of wildlife populations. The 2019 BDM report saw a huge increase to 442 case studies and highlighted the contribution of hunters in achieving the targets set in the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020.





In 2019, FACE developed its BDM website that shows:

- the Biodiversity Manifesto and its reports
- the projects gathered
- the opportunity to share your project
- documents related to hunting and conservation.

Visit www.biodiversitymanifesto.com for the best source for hunting-related conservation information in Europe.

FACE warmly welcomes new BDM initiatives. These can include habitat and species management activities, monitoring and research, awareness raising, etc. As long as it benefits biodiversity and includes hunters. Visit our website to upload your project.

AGRICULTURE

Common Agricultural Policy Reform

During 2019, FACE continued to promote its work on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). FACE is calling for a more sustainable CAP that addresses the biodiversity crisis on Europe's farmland, which is affecting the status of many huntable and non-huntable species. Most small game populations have decreased due to intense agricultural practices (dramatic loss of quality habitat and food, with poor insect abundance) and the utilisation of unsustainable agricultural production methods.

According to FACE, the next CAP post 2020 should reward farmers for producing food and ecosystem services whatever the scale, thereby providing multiple benefits for farmers and society at large. For hunters, this means that the next CAP should play a more positive role with regard to the conservation of small game species, which require a diversity of farmland habitats. Hunters and farmers have a role to play and partnership between both parties is important.

BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

It is evident that current Greening measures do not have a significant positive impact on farmland biodiversity. Furthermore, they can often represent an additional administrative burden for farmers and authorities. In this context, FACE is asking for a new Greening instrument in the next CAP to ensure agriculture's coherence with other existing EU policies such as the nature directives, the Water Framework Directive, the Nitrates Directive, etc.

FACE's input into the next Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

During 2019, FACE developed its position on the next CAP stating that European agricultural policy should:

- Reward farmers for producing food and ecosystem services whatever the scale, thereby providing multiple benefits for farmers and society at large. For hunters, this means that the next CAP should play a more positive role with regard to the conservation of small game species, which require a diversity of farmland habitats.
- Encourage and help farmers to better respond to the multiple environmental and often competing market demands.
- Incentivise habitat restoration while, at the same time, provide economic security to farm families.
- Contribute better to the EU's international commitments on biodiversity conservation and to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.
- Provide flexibility for Member States to adapt their land eligibility requirements to local and regional land use conditions and characteristics (i.e. to support the diversity of Europe's countryside).

Natura 2000

The Natura 2000 Network benefits from the fact that it is based on the principles of conservation and sustainable use, ensuring lasting coexistence with human activities and biodiversity conservation. As such, it is not in contradiction with hunting. The Biodiversity Manifesto (BDM) implementation reports show the scale of hunters' management in Natura 2000 sites: A third of the case studies gathered are in Natura 2000 sites. This demonstrates how sustainable hunting is an important tool to help achieve the conservation objectives of Natura 2000. The BDM also shows that the management practices adopted by hunters can benefit not only game species but also a range of other protected or endangered animals and plants. This is important as EU Member States have to ensure the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of EU interest under the Nature Directives. This requires financing, monitoring, conservation and restoration. The BDM shows that hunters contribute to all of these aspects and therefore Natura 2000 needs hunters' support.

PARTRIDGE project on full steam

FACE is part of the Steering group of the INTERREG North Sea Region PARTRIDGE project, which aims at improving the habitat for the Partridge and wider biodiversity on farmland. Hunters are a vital part of the project, with tasks ranging from monitoring and predation control. The project is in its third year, and although certain objectives are met, the project partners have applied for an extension of 3 years, to fully achieve all the objectives. In February, FACE organised a field visit the PARTRIDGE-site in the Netherlands, Oude Doorn for a Dutch Member of the European Parliament Annie Schreijer-Pierik.

The project hopes to be extended to Denmark and Sweden, as well as conveying the lessons learned from the project sites to the wider agricultural areas. FACE is working with the project partners to share these lessons also with the European decision-makers, especially those involved in the current and future discussions on the EU's agricultural policy.

Natura 2000 Seminars of the Biogeographical Process

The Natura 2000 Seminars are part of the European Commission's Biogeographical Process which was established to encourage multi-stakeholder co-operation towards better implementation of the Nature Directives. The Biogeographical process meetings represent a good opportunity for FACE and other rural actors to exchange views and good practices about the management of Natura 2000 sites and issues related to implementation of the Nature Directives.

The Natura 2000 Users Forum

The Natura 2000 Users' Forum brings together FACE, the foresters (the Confederation of European Forest Owners, CEPF), farmers (Copa-Cogeca), anglers (European Anglers' Alliance, EAA) and landowners (European Landowners' Organisation, ELO). Our organisations represent the major environmental, socio-economic and socio-cultural activities linked to rural areas – the areas which host the largest proportion of biodiversity in the EU. Together we represent over 45 million EU citizens which own, manage, use and conserve land. The Forum has proven to be a powerful platform to address EU policy-makers with joint and coherent messages from Europe's land users.



FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

FACE and its Members seek to ensure that hunters can acquire, possess, use and travel with firearms and ammunition safely and without unjustified bureaucracy, costs or restrictions. With regards to firearms, many of these aspects are presently covered by EU law, either through full harmonisation or minimum rules. Furthermore, FACE aims to facilitate processes to ensure that hunters have information on and access to effective ammunition, which is available, affordable and safe to use for the purpose intended.

Firearms Directive: Updates

During 2019, FACE held several meetings with its Members and with industry regarding national implementation of the revised Firearms Directive. Regarding the European Firearms Pass (EFP), FACE is convinced that the marking of all essential components will not contribute to a better traceability and monitoring of the movement of firearms. In 2019, FACE highlighted that if Member States take different

approaches to marking, this could lead to restrictions on the free movement of hunters travelling with the EFP.

WFSA General Assembly: Lead ammunition

FACE was invited to give a presentation on ammunition at the World Forum on Shooting Activities (WFSA) Plenary Session, which took place in Nuremberg, Germany on 7 March 2019. The presentation from Dr. David Scallan described the development of the ongoing restriction on lead shot over wetlands. He also referred to other processes affecting lead under the European Chemicals Agency, namely the listing of lead metal as a Substance of Very High Concern (SVHC) and ECHA's (2018) report calling for more regulation on lead ammunition in Europe. He highlighted the need for all stakeholders to provide an evidence base to support their concerns about non-lead ammunition in preparation for a potential future restriction on lead ammunition.



New EU restriction on the use of lead shot over wetlands

In 2015, the European Commission (EC) requested the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to prepare a restriction on lead shot over wetlands in Europe. In August 2018, ECHA's proposal was sent to the EC. In October 2019, the EC's first proposal was discussed in the EU REACH Committee (i.e. Member State representatives and the EC), where Governments have an opportunity to provide their views. Following a discussion in the European Parliament on this restriction, FACE issued the following statement:

- FACE supports phasing out the use of lead shot for hunting over wetlands.
- Thus far, 23 Member States have phased out the use of lead shot for hunting over wetlands in line with the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). Member States have designed their regulations in a way that is proportionate to the risk as well as being practical and understandable for hunters and enforcement officers in line with national conditions.
- FACE does not support the EC's proposal because it introduces fixed buffer zones around wetlands (which were not recommended by ECHA), a short transition period (even shorter than what ECHA recommended), a vague ban on possession of lead shot, which automatically criminalises hunters, and a very broad definition of wetlands that is too complex for the purpose of this regulation for hunters and enforcement officers to understand in the field.

Proposal to restrict lead in all ammunition requested by European Commission

In 2019, the European Commission (EC) requested the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to prepare a restriction proposal addressing the risk to wildlife and humans (via the consumption of game meat) from lead in all ammunition (shot and bullets) including target shooting.

Lead in fishing weights is also included in the request. The EC's letter to ECHA, which became public on 21 August 2019, also asks ECHA to assess issues linked to animal welfare, potential accidents to hunters using lead ammunition and its alternatives.

If ECHA's proposal recommends that further action is necessary, the agency will begin preparing a restriction on all lead in ammunition with its Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) and its Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) committees. At that stage, there will be consultations with relevant stakeholders including FACE, which also sits on ECHA's decision-making committees.

Although FACE supports phasing out the use of lead shot over wetlands, it does not support general bans on lead in ammunition. From FACE's perspective, any further measures beyond lead shot over wetlands must be proportional with the demonstrated risks to wildlife populations and human health via game consumption (taking into account risk management measures).

If ECHA recommends that a wider restriction on lead in ammunition is necessary, this approach is likely to be extremely complex in terms of establishing actual risks to wildlife populations and human health particularly regarding the available risk management measures. FACE and its Members responded to ECHA's call for evidence in December 2019.

FACE Ammunition Working Group

The FACE Ammunition Working Group meets twice per year to discuss important policy developments related to ammunition. An example of an initiative from the working group includes the development of a new FACE website "Guidance on Managing Risks from Lead Ammunition":

www.leadammunitionguidance.com



INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

FACE actively participates in key International Agreements, providing relevant expertise, coordination, synergies and awareness in collaboration with its partners and Members. In this way, FACE is informed about and involved in all international conservation decisions. This also provides a way for FACE to raise the international profile of hunters as conservationists, as well as finding ways of working with other conservationists.

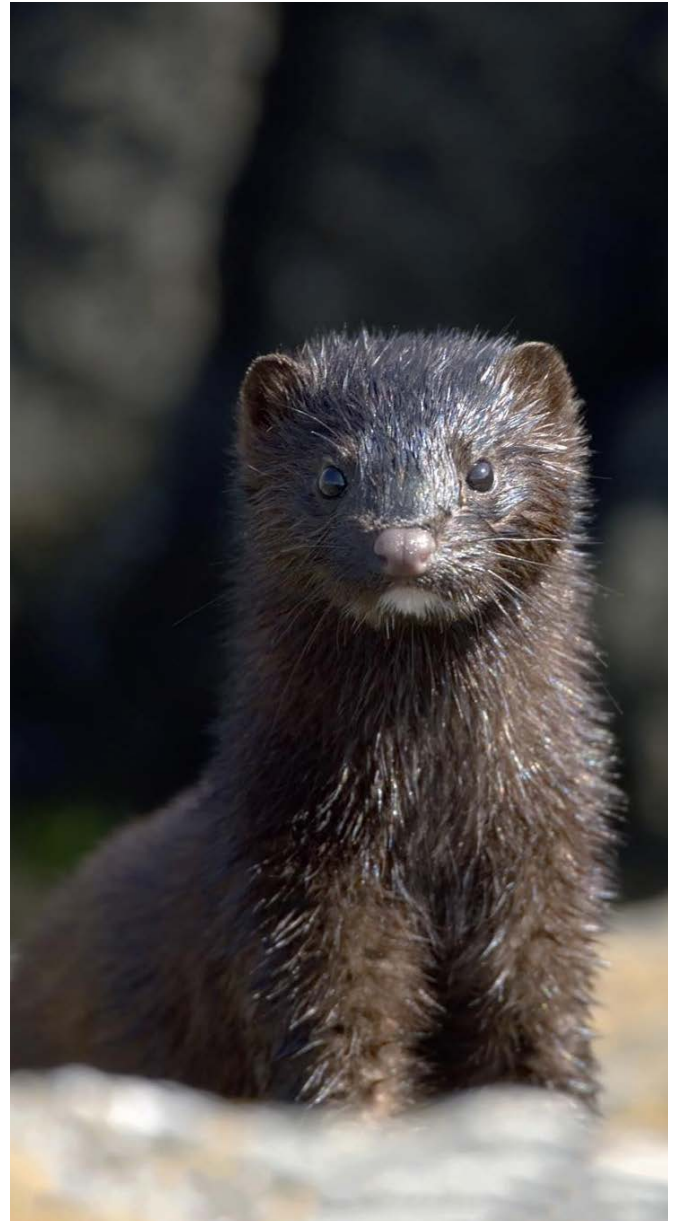
Bern Convention

From 3-6 December 2019, FACE participated at the 39th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in Strasbourg (France). The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (or Bern Convention) is the first international agreement (1979) dedicated to nature conservation, covering most of Europe and some African countries (now 50 States in total).

At the end of each year, government representatives, the European Commission and NGO's gather to discuss environmental concerns and to take decisions. This year, the meeting's highlights were the outcomes of the 2019 meetings and activities, and the post-2020 contribution of the Bern Convention to the current global biodiversity framework. Hot topics included the conservation of birds, the fight against invasive alien species (IAS), the relationship between biodiversity and climate change, and the management of protected areas.

Relevant to the hunting community, the meeting witnessed a proposal by the Norwegian government to amend the convention's appendices, by moving of Barnacle Goose from Appendix II (strictly protected) to Appendix III (protected). However, the proposal did not receive the necessary two-thirds majority due to a block abstention by EU-28. See more info here.

Regarding IAS, FACE was pleased to see that its 3rd report on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS was



adopted. This report demonstrates the importance of hunters' contribution across Europe to the surveillance, management and eradication of IAS.

FACE was also engaged in the development of the new Rome Strategic Plan for 2020-2030 on illegal killing of birds (IKB), which was also adopted at the Standing Committee. While being a joint action plan by the Bern Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Rome Strategic Plan was only adopted on behalf of the Bern Convention.

FACE was pleased to join the Bern Convention in celebrating 40 years of conserving our natural heritage. The Convention's openness to work

with civil society and expert groups has been valuable for producing well balanced guidance documents which FACE uses as a reference on a regular basis.

AIHTS: Better implementation needed by EU Member States

Under the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS), traps used for certain AIHTS-listed species need to be evaluated using approved testing standards and must subsequently be certified as meeting the AIHTS welfare requirements.

EU Member States had until July 2016 to prohibit the use of traps





not certified in accordance with the standards of the Agreement (for AIHTS species). However, most Member States have not achieved this. FACE wants to see more progress being made in implementing this agreement, which could be used more effectively to share knowledge and assist with wildlife management for invasive alien species, conservation and research purposes.

See the FACE website for our position on trapping, further information on AIHTS, and our work on best practice trapping guidelines for Raccoon Dog, Muskrat, Red Fox, European pine marten and Eurasian beaver.

CITES

On 29 January, FACE attended the EU consultation meeting on the 18th Conference of Parties (CoP) for CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). Relevant topics for which FACE provided input were African Elephant, White Rhino, Heptner's markhor and the Saiga Antelope. The European Commission used this meeting to inform their own decision-making for the CITES CoP 18.



Updates on CITES CoP18

The 18th meeting of the CoP to CITES concluded in Geneva in August 2019. During the two-week conference, the parties and observers discussed 56 species listing proposals and more than 150 working documents. FACE followed discussions on Reeve's Pheasant, Giraffe, Rhino, Elephant, Lion, Leopard and many more.

CITES listing Reeve's pheasant

The CITES CoP listed the Reeve's pheasant (*Symaticus reevesii*) in Appendix 2 of the convention. China requested this listing because the wild populations of the species (which is endemic to China) is dwindling. CITES Appendix 2 includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which international trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival. To be able to trade

an Appendix 2 listed species (incl. parts of the animals, e.g. egg/feathers), an export permit of the countries' CITES management authority is needed. The species has established itself in several European countries and could be huntable. The CITES listing will not have an effect on the hunting of these populations. For the movement of animals or its parts (e.g. eggs/feathers) within the European single market, a permit is not needed. Exportation to outside the single market and importation from outside the single market will require the previously mentioned export permit. The European Union has taken stricter measures for CITES listed species. At this point in time it is not yet clear how the EU is going to regulate the trade in the Reeve's pheasant. If they do, such a decision will not affect the hunting of established populations.

IUCN Regional Forum Rotterdam

On 1 and 2 July, FACE attended the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Regional Forum in Rotterdam. IUCN is not an international agreement, but a conservation network of Members, which creates policy that is taken seriously by governments. This meeting was a preparatory meeting for the IUCN World Conservation Congress, taking place in 2020 in France. In 2020, important decisions will be taken on the international biodiversity strategy until 2030. Being involved from an early start is important in these discussions. Key topics include planning for the post-2020 Biodiversity Strategy, sustainable farming and reducing plastic pollution. FACE was joined by CIC, IAF and other sustainable use representatives.



ANIMAL WELFARE AND HEALTH



Introduction

Hunters monitor the health of animals living in the wild and are active in identifying diseases such as African Swine Fever, Rabies and Avian Influenza. In this context, hunters play a key role in protecting public health and that of domestic (farmed) animals. Europe's hunters are key partners of European (EU) and international (World Organisation for Animal Health -OIE) initiatives that combat transmissible diseases (zoonosis).

FACE ensures EU policies are workable for hunters in the field and provides guidance to hunters on how best to comply with administrative procedures linked to game meat, animal welfare, public and animal health. FACE participates in many international events and conferences, including the meetings of the European Commission's Animal Health Advisory Committee.

Avian Flu: Hunters as watchdogs for the health of wildlife

In 2019, FACE disseminated information on the spread of avian flu to its Members although thankfully it was a quiet year for this disease. FACE urged Europe's 7 million hunters to remain alert and report any suspected cases (of sick or dead birds) to national authorities. FACE was advising hunting organisations to:

- Continue to monitor avian flu surveillance programmes and keep up with other developments as they occur;
- Continue to inform their Members about avian flu and the need to exercise caution when handling birds.

African Swine Fever: Hunters role for the health of all animals

In 2019, FACE followed all updates with regards to the spread and management of African swine fever (ASF). FACE worked together with different stakeholders on this topic (governments, veterinary services, representatives of farm industry, food agencies and national hunting associations). FACE also worked closely with DG Santé and Commissioner Andriukaitis.

During 2019, FACE urged Europe's hunters to be aware of ASF at all times. Where any case of ASF is suspected, hunters need to immediately report this to their national authorities. By being the eyes and ears of the forest, hunters will play their role in an effective eradication of ASF.

To eradicate ASF, hunters must work together with many different stakeholders who sometimes do not fully understand hunting. In all of these cases, it will be important to communicate with each other in an understandable way. Implementing the EU strategy on ASF and maintaining high biosecurity measures is crucial and until now the only successful way in tackling the disease.

Animal Welfare and Health Working Group

In 2019, FACE kept its Animal Welfare and Health Working Group informed about FACE's participation at meetings of the EU Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health. FACE's participation in EU meetings was important to provide stakeholders with an update on the revision of official controls on food of animal origin (replacing Regulation (EC) No 854/2004) and to collect views of stakeholder organisations. These meetings are important for FACE to discuss the implementation of the EU Regulations, which set requirements and responsibilities for producing wild game as food.

FACE also followed the EU Platform on Animal Welfare. The focus of the platform is not on wild animals, but domestic and, in particular, farm animals. As hunting dogs are covered in this platform, FACE will keep following the issues.



ANIMAL WELFARE AND HEALTH UPDATES/MEETINGS

30 January 2019, Dortmund: “Preparing European Hunters to Eradicate African Swine Fever” at the “Jagd und Hund” exhibition in Dortmund, Germany. The FACE conference was attended by experts from the hunting community, scientists, the European Commission, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), national authorities as well as key stakeholders from EU farming and pig meat sectors.

7 March 2019, The Netherlands: To be prepared for a potential outbreak, the Dutch Wildlife Health Centre and the Dutch mammal society organised a meeting on this topic. Due to the risk of being close to infection areas, the Netherlands prepared different plans to prevent and combat an outbreak of ASF.

11 and 12 March 2019, Prague: The 12th meeting of the GF-TADs Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever (ASF) in Europe was mainly organised to build on the experience of the Czech Republic, which was the first EU country that managed to eradicate ASF in wild boar. During the meeting, FACE presented recommendations for the hunting community on how to prepare and act in times of ASF.

13 March 2019, Prague: FACE participated in a technical training session on eradicating ASF with a focus on the Czech Republic experience. This umbrella initiative, which took place in Prague, was linked to the GF-TAD’s meeting and the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) initiative.

9 April 2019, Brussels: The FACE ASF recommendations were approved by FACE Members and supported by the European Commission DG SANTE with them even shared the recommendations with their list of contacts.

20 May 2019, Brussels: The European Commission (DG SANTE) organised a meeting of the Animal Health Advisory Committee (AHAC) which normally occurs three times a year. FACE attended the meeting

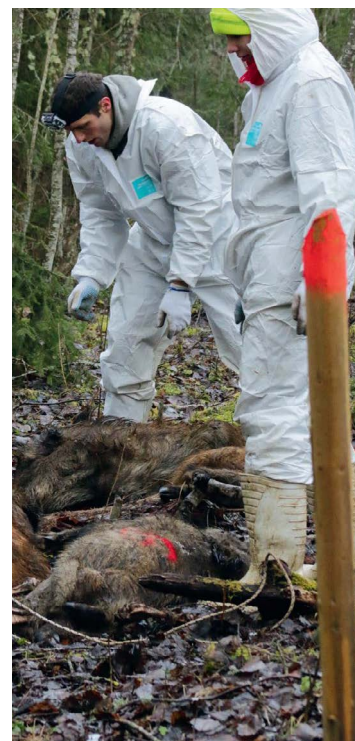
and focussed on the part of animal diseases. The EC recognised the work by FACE and its members and welcomed the recommendations on ASF adopted by the FACE Members in the Netherlands.

24 July 2019, Riga: FACE Baltic Region Members (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia) held a meeting in Riga, Latvia to discuss national developments and promote regional coordination. Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia are pioneering methods and tools to eradicate ASF in wild boar.

25 July 2019, Slovakia: The Slovak State Veterinary Services announced the first outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs (4 cases so far) in Strážné, not far away from the border with Hungary. A few weeks later, on 12 August, the first case of ASF in wild boar was confirmed.

1 August 2019, Serbia: ASF in domestic pigs was also confirmed in Serbia. The situation was challenging in Bulgaria and Romania. Bulgaria had to cull 130 000 domestic pigs in two weeks due to the spread of ASF.

21 November 2019, Brussels: New cases in western Poland. The fast spread of this disease in Europe can only be explained by human activities. In this sense, hunters must remain extremely vigilant while maintaining high biosecurity standards. The disease is also spreading to southern Bulgaria with two new cases very close to the Greek border.





HUNTING METHODS AND CULTURE

The strength of European hunting lies in its diversity. FACE actively supports the rich diversity of hunting methods, traditions and cultures in Europe whilst fully promoting the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, which defer decisions and their application to national levels. Our partners in this work include the International Union of Hunting with Hounds, the European Bowhunting Federation (EBF), the International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) and the European Association of Traditional Hunts (AECT) to name a few.

UNESCO consultation meeting for NGOs

On 18 April 2019, FACE attended a UNESCO consultation meeting on the role of accredited non-governmental organisations within UNESCO. During the day, the role of NGO's within UNESCO and the accreditation procedure discussed. For FACE, UNESCO can provide important recognition of the cultural dimensions of hunting. Falconry is a prime example of Intangible Cultural Heritage recognised by UNESCO at the international level and by more than 18 countries. Falconry is practiced all around the world in all different cultures dating back over 7.000 years.



AECT and traditional bird hunting

On 9 March 2019, FACE attended the General Assembly of AECT (European Association of Traditional Hunts) in Marseille, France. AECT Members strive to defend their cultural heritage – sometimes dating back to Antiquity. Traditional hunting methods sometimes face criticism, even though they can have a positive impact on biodiversity, preserve intangible cultural heritage and support scientific-based knowledge. FACE remains active in its defence of regional hunting practices, which operate under Article 9.1.C of the Birds Directive.

Société de Vénerie

On 11 June 2019, FACE attended a meeting and dinner organised by the Société de Vénerie at the castle of La Hulpe in Belgium where Belgian, French and Dutch guests gathered. Hunting with hounds, vénerie or chasse à courre is a traditional method of hunting that goes back in France at least 600 years. Hunters follow on horseback the hounds that are hunting a specific game species. Several other countries have similar practices.



FACE PATRON PROGRAMME

In 2019, FACE developed its “Patron Programme”, with the aim to provide the hunting sector with a means to support a strong future for hunting and conservation in Europe. Our Patron Programme is the foundation for developing an essential and strong network.

The FACE team is composed of experts from the fields of conservation, communication, EU policy, legal and public affairs. FACE needs support from relevant stakeholders to have a better footing when it comes to tackling EU/international policy affairs and to continue to grow and promote the benefits of hunting around Europe.

FACE Patrons have a direct contact with the FACE team in Brussels and benefit from insight on relevant activities/topics.

On 3 February 2020, FACE unveiled its “Patron Programme”, and officially announced **Blaser**, **BioAmmo** and **Jagd&Hund** as “Gold” Patrons.

BLASER is the famous German brand founded in 1957 by Horst Blaser. It is a manufacturer of high-end shotguns and rifles for hunting, but its portfolio also includes a wide range of products from hunting firearms to hunting gear, ammunition, optics, accessories, outfits.

BIOAMMO LTD is an ammunition manufacturer dedicated to the development, manufacturing and distribution of 100% biodegradable, bio-compostable and non-toxic wads and cases with 0% plastic. BioAmmo’s mission is to manufacture high quality, high performance



cartridges for both Game and Sports shooting and to help to eradicate any pollution from plastic in ammunition. BioAmmo’s patented vegetal biopolymer material is simply consumed by bacteria, where it is turned into a completely natural biomass. Moisture and sunlight have no effect on its degradation, storage time is about 5 years and BioAmmo’s cartridges are also available with non-toxic shot. Simply bury the wads and cases and nature will do the rest!

JAGD&HUND is Europe’s largest hunting exhibition with around 82,000 visitors and 850 exhibitors every year. It is hosted by the **Messe Dortmund GmbH**, which is one of the largest exhibition centres in Germany.

As FACE unveiled its Patron Programme, Torbjörn Larsson, FACE President stated: *“Today, we are facing unprecedented challenges and major threats, our common mission is to ensure hunting and conservation for future generations in Europe. This is an excellent launch of the FACE Patron Programme that has opened the door for a much stronger FACE to set the best context for hunting and conservation in Europe. The Patron Programme will improve FACE’s influence and success at the EU level where 80% of the national rules affecting hunting and conservation emerge.”*



FINANCES

Introduction

FACE delivers cost-effective support to its Members. This represents great value for European hunters considering the extent of work carried out by the FACE Secretariat and the fact that Membership subscriptions represent less than 10 cents per hunter.



It is in this ethos that FACE offers cost-effective and transparent management of finances to its Members and partners, generating maximum impact with limited expenditure.

While the core funding of FACE comes from the Memberships fees, a portion of FACE's budget is also financed by the European Commission's Environment Directorate through LIFE NGO Funding.

Transparency

FACE is fully signed up to the EU Transparency Register (Reg No 75899541198-85) which is operated by the European Parliament and the European Commission. FACE operates by their Code of Conduct in all our relations with the EU Institutions and their Members, officials and other staff.

For more details on the register see http://europa.eu/transparency-register/index_en.htm

PERIOD FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2019

INCOME

Membership fees - Full Members	74.1%
Membership fees - Associate Members	3.2%
LIFE NGO Grant	11.7%
Additional subsidies (ESFAM)	1.6%
Fundraising initiatives	0.2%
Bank interests & Financial income	0.1%
Insurance compensation	0.1%
Extraordinary income (Past years)	9%

EXPENDITURE

Premises	8.1%
Consumables	0.4%
Administration	6.2%
Work programme costs	13.5%
President costs	1.8%
Staff missions	7.0%
Staff costs	55.9%
Training and Development	4.6%
Depreciation (annual liability)	2.3%
Extraordinary charges (past years)	0.2%





**European Federation
for Hunting and Conservation**

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