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# FACE ACTIVITY REPORT 2021

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# ABOUT FACE

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-profitmaking, non-governmental organisation. This makes FACE the largest democratically representative body for hunters in the world and 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, ranging from international conservation agreements to local implementation issues – with the aim of supporting a strong future for hunting and conservation across Europe.

## PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



### Dear Members, friends and partners,

Despite the challenges of Covid-19, 2021 was another good year for FACE. We held our General Assembly in September 2021 connected to the impressive “One With Nature” expo, in Budapest, Hungary. This was our first in-person meeting since 2019. A new Board was elected (until 2024) along with a decision to revise our Mission, Vision, Strategy, a process that will conclude in September 2022.

The speed of EU decision-making continued during 2021, which was complicated by the absence of physical meetings. Despite this, FACE remained active on all files affecting hunting and conservation. As I write in early 2022, we are waiting for the European Commission’s (EC) proposal for a new restoration law, which is due in spring 2022. If correctly focused on habitats and ecosystems, there will be considerable scope to restore nature in Europe.

Europe’s farming laws were finally agreed in recent months leaving much work to do at national level to ensure farming delivers for nature. New criteria on protected areas were agreed in October 2021, providing scope for hunters and anglers to continue their important activities. FACE and its Members effectively highlighted that banning hunting (and fishing) in strictly protected areas would be an unwise top-down EU approach for halting biodiversity loss.

The EC published its revised guidance on strict protection of species (affecting large carnivores), and the review of data on bird hunting periods in Europe in 2021. During the year, FACE engaged in the policy discussions on Avian Flu in wild birds and African Swine Fever in wild boar. This was important following the outbreaks in Germany and now in Northern Italy since January 2022.

Finally, it was great to see that the European Parliament’s “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside” Intergroup organised a series of successful online events with a large online presence in 2021.

FACE is nothing without its Members and together we must continue our work to ensure that the interests of Europe’s 7 million hunters take centre stage when decisions are made with regard to hunting and conservation.

Hunters can help unified messaging in many ways, for example by uploading their new conservation projects on: [www.biodiversitymanifesto.com](http://www.biodiversitymanifesto.com)

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 promote hunting and conservation in Europe.

## 2021 STAFF

### SECRETARY GENERAL

Dr David Scallan

### LEGAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Valentina Siddi  
*Legal & Public Affairs Manager*

Levina de Jonge  
*Public Affairs Officer*

Konstantina Katrimpouza  
*Legal Affairs Officer*

Seppo Puustinen  
*Policy Advisor*

### ADMINISTRATION

Charlotte Nyffels  
*Office and Business Manager*

Thiviya Thivakaran  
*Office Administrator*

### CONSERVATION

Cy Griffin  
*Senior Conservation Manager*

Sabrina Dietz  
*Wildlife Policy Officer*

Stanislas Sibille  
*Conservation Policy Officer*

### COMMUNICATIONS

Alessio Borrello  
*Communication Manager*

Sabine Borgers-Guse  
*Senior Translator*

Bob Groome  
*Communication and Policy Officer*

Jennifer Eve Smith  
*Communication & Social Media Officer*

## FACE MEMBERS

FACE works with its Members, partners and the EU institutions to facilitate understanding, action and information exchange.

FACE is nowhere without its Members.

FACE Members encompass the expertise, knowledge, structures and influence that represent 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), Lovački Savez Republike Srpska (LSRS), Savez Lovačkih organizacija BiH (SLOBiH)*

**Bulgaria:** *Съюз на ловците и риболовците в България*

**Croatia:** *Hrvatski Lovački Savez*

**Cyprus:** *Κυπριακή Ομοσπονδία Κυνηγίου και Διαιτησίας Αγρίας Ζωας*

**Czech Republic:** *Ceskomoravská Myslivecká Jednota (CMMJ)*

**Denmark:** *Danmarks Jægerforbund*

**Estonia:** *Eesti Jahimeeste Selts*

**Finland:** *Metsästäjäliitto*

**France:** *Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs*

**Germany:** *Deutscher Jagdverband e.V.*

**Greece:** *Κυνηγική Συνομοσπονδία Ελλάδος*

**Hungary:** *Országos Magyar Vadászkamara*

**Hungary:** *Országos Magyar Vadászati Véddegyet*

**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

*Association Européenne de Commerce d'Armes Civiles (AECAC)*

*Association of European Manufacturers of Sporting Firearms (ESFAM)*

*Dallas Safari Club (DSC)*

*European Bowhunting Federation (EBF)*

*Safari Club International (SCI)*

*Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF)*

## OTHER MEMBERS

### Honorary Presidents

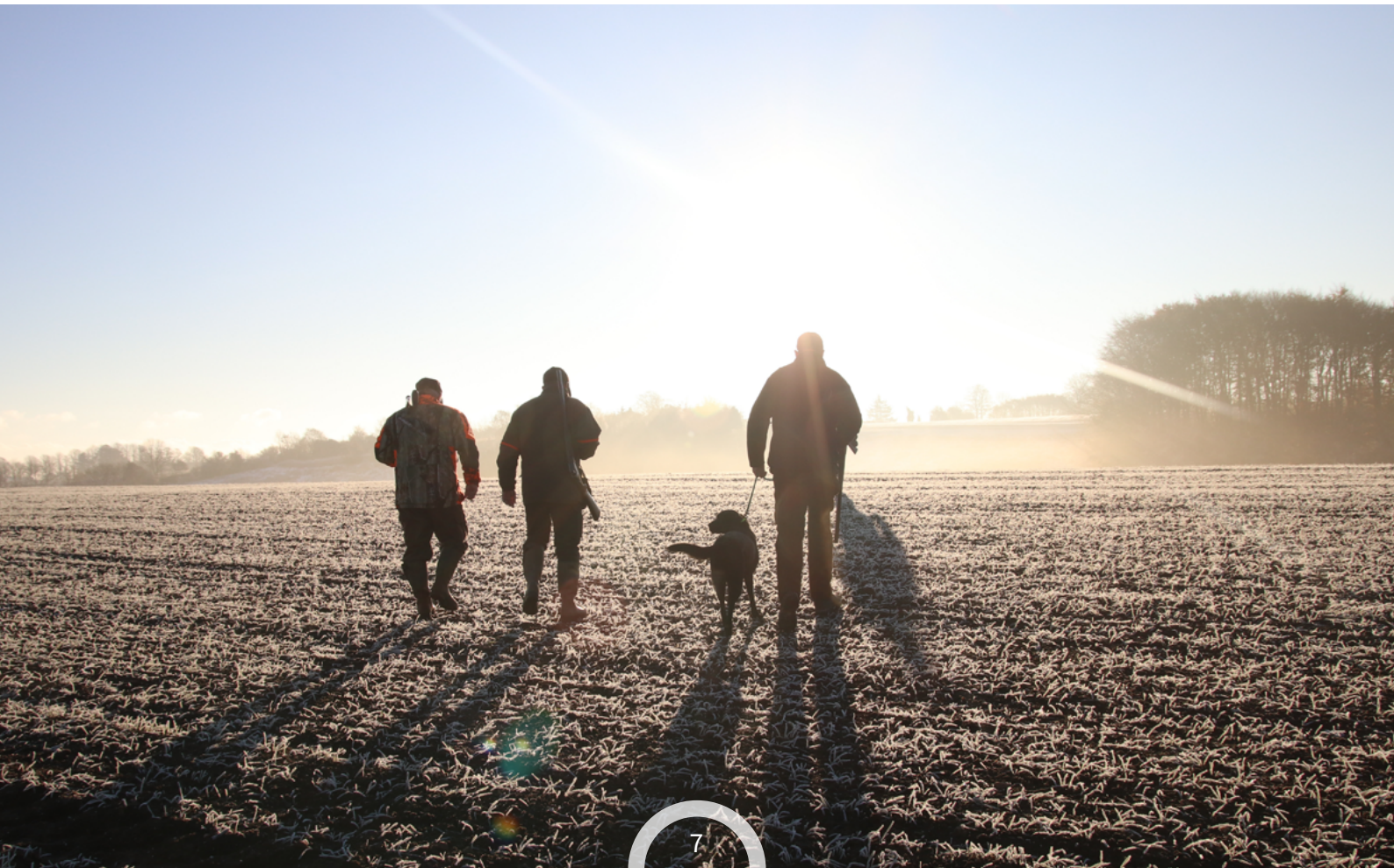
† Giovanni BANA, † Gilbert de TURCKHEIM

### Honorary Members

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

## BOARD MEMBERS

- *President, TORBJÖRN LARSSON*
- *Secretary General, Dr. DAVID SCALLAN*
- *Treasurer General, DAVID CLAVADETSCHER*
- *Vice-President, Germany, Dr. VOLKER BÖHNING*
- *Vice-President, Nordic Region, TUOMAS HALLENBERG*
- *Vice-President, Italy, GIAN LUCA DALL'OLIO*
- *Vice-President, France, ALAIN DURAND*
- *Vice-President, Spain, MANUEL GALLARDO*
- *Vice-President, Baltic Region, LINDA DOMBROVSKA*
- *Vice-President, Mediterranean Region, LINO FARRUGIA*
- *Vice-President, Atlantic Region, DIETER DE METS*
- *Vice-President, South-East Region, VASIL VASILEV*
- *Vice-President, United Kingdom, IAN BELL*
- *Vice-President, Central Region, SREČKO ŽERJAV*



# THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INTERGROUP “BIODIVERSITY, HUNTING, COUNTRYSIDE”

The European Parliament’s **“Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside”** Intergroup is one of the oldest and most active parliamentary platforms. Since its first establishment in 1985 as a stakeholder platform, the Intergroup has worked to enable an open dialogue with decision-makers, including the European Commission (EC) and European Parliament (EP), and numerous other experts.

The Intergroup has a large network of **more than 150 actively supporting Members of European Parliament (MEPs)** from across the entire political spectrum. During 2021, FACE and European Landowners’ Organization (ELO) coordinated several well-timed and policy-relevant online events to discuss environmental hot topics, which were subject to media and political debate.

## **7 September 2021** **Combating the greatest threat to wolves in Europe: Illegal killing**

The event was hosted by the Intergroup President MEP Álvaro Amaro (Portugal, EPP), with introductory remarks from MEP Elsi Katainen, Intergroup Vice-President (Finland, Renew Europe) Herbert Dorfmann (Italy, EPP), and Riho Terras (Estonia, EPP).

In his opening message, MEP Álvaro Amaro highlighted the need to actively involve relevant stakeholders such as hunters, landowners and farmers at all levels in the decision-making process and opened a fruitful debate on the challenges towards combatting illegal killing and improving coexistence. He also stressed that: *“For people who live in urban areas or cities, these challenges are often hard to comprehend. Rural voices need to be heard and integrated in wolf management and conservation planning, otherwise we might have coexistence problems”*.

With a special focus on the importance of social acceptance of Europe’s wolves, the scientists provided context to the complex issue of illegal killing in Europe, stressing the need to listen carefully to stakeholders closest to wolves, and on how to improve coexistence. The conservation and recovery of large carnivores,

especially the wolf in Europe, will mainly depend on the acceptance and tolerance of those that share their everyday space with them.

## **13 April 2021** **EU Nature Restoration Targets: State of play and next steps**

The event was chaired by Intergroup President MEP Álvaro Amaro (Portugal, EPP), with introductory remarks by MEP Simone Schmiedtbauer (Austria, EPP) and MEP Alexander Bernhuber (Austria, EPP).

During the meeting, all MEPs agreed that restoration targets constitute a central element for the success or failure of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and stressed the need to follow a holistic and bottom-up approach, which promotes an effective co-ownership between all actors, authorities and stakeholders.

In particular, MEP Simone Schmiedtbauer stated: *“I am convinced that a successful conservation can only be achieved through the active involvement of the people on the ground, the people directly concerned and affected: farmers, foresters, hunters and landowners – the rural community. All of their voices need to be heard and recognised. We need their will and support to achieve EU’s nature restoration targets.”*

## **25 February 2021** **Hunting under the Birds Directive: An open debate on the state of play**

The event occurred when the latest [status of Europe’s huntable birds](#) report was published by FACE drawing on the EU [State of Nature report](#), and when the European Commission focused on adaptive harvest management for the Turtle Dove. This was also timed at an important political moment as the European Commission was defining its targets for implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030.

Cy Griffin, FACE Senior Conservation Manager stated: *“Following the publication of FACE’s report ‘Europe’s Huntable Birds: A Review of Status and Conservation Priorities’ in December 2020, we have a sound basis to*



*inform the dialogue on hunting under the Birds Directive. The fact that less than half of Annex II species are in a secure status is of great concern to FACE, but we should avoid jumping to quick conclusions as this situation is similar to all wild birds covered by the directive. Evidence-based conservation should follow knowledge on the status of individual species and the pressures before deciding on the best response. One thing we can be sure of is that restoration of habitats is a priority, which is why FACE advocates for a CAP that delivers for biodiversity and welcomes the EU Nature Restoration plan”.*

MEP Alex Agius Saliba introduced a video by the Federation for Hunting and Conservation of Malta (FKNK), which explained the small-scale and culturally important finch trapping practices in Malta. He further emphasised the need to protect small-scale regional hunting activities in Europe, which are highly regulated and critically important to hunters and trappers that carry out their long-standing traditions in a sustainable way.

More information on the “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside” Intergroup:  
[www.biodiversityhuntingcountryside.eu](http://www.biodiversityhuntingcountryside.eu)

## Policy updates 2021

FACE is a critical point of reference for MEPs in Brussels, who often need to access clear and digestible information about technical initiatives before reaching European Parliament. The reputation FACE has built over the years is that of a respected and well-appreciated NGO. Our members play a vital role in this success through undertaking advocacy work at national level and informing FACE of national initiatives that could have an impact at EU level. As in 2020, online meetings continued to be our primary tool for advancing our advocacy work in 2021.



## MIGRATORY BIRDS



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.

### Hunting of migratory birds with insecure status

During 2021, FACE was actively engaged in a European Commission (EC) project assessing the hunting of migratory bird species which are not in a secure status. This work is extremely important as 33 huntable species\* are concerned. Importantly, sedentary species have

been left to Member States' responsibility – a sensible approach recommended by FACE as these are managed locally without an EU (European Union) coordination being required.

The first steps of the project involved priority ranking of species, assessment of the role of survival on population dynamics – and if the latter was stated as being critical – the impact of hunting on survival. The outcome of these assessments was distributed in four scenarios, which will determine the policy response for hunting.

FACE has been providing expert advice such as advocating for the use of bird species' wintering EU data, which is the most relevant data for assessing the impact of hunting. Also, FACE stressed that a case-by-case analysis is needed, as the proposed zero-harvest scenario should not be an automatic short-term policy response. Further, an excessive burden of proof is required in the current approach to allow hunting and for hunters' conservation actions to be acknowledged.

FACE will continue to engage in the process to represent hunters' interests and to ensure decisions on hunting are taken on solid foundations.





### \*List of 33 huntable migratory Annex II bird species with an unsecure status

**Common Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

**Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis*

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

**Common Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

**Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

**Garganey** *Spatula querquedula*

**Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

**Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

**Common Teal** *Anas crecca*

**European Turtle dove** *Streptopelia turtur*

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

**Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

**Mew Gull** *Larus canus*

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

**Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

## Regional update 2021: European Red List of Birds

On 14 October 2021, BirdLife International launched the European Red List of Birds 2021. The report contains updated regional extinction risks for all 544 European bird species and was carried out together with the IUCN, while being funded by the European Commission.

While around 80% of the bird species assessed were stated to be of “Least Concern”, declining trends are observed in 30% of cases for all species and in over 40% for waterbirds. For huntable birds, several species showed a worse status (Table 1), while declining trends were reported for others – often based on breeding numbers. However, for several duck species associated with declining breeding trends, increasing wintering numbers are reported – illustrating a loss of quality breeding habitat. Therefore, FACE has been actively calling for better habitat conservation and restoration measures to be incentivised under the Common Agricultural Policy.

The report also highlights success stories for several huntable bird species (Table 2). These species have favourably changed categories from “Threatened” and “Near Threatened” to “Least Concern”.

The European hunting community has been actively engaged in bird conservation through various activities, such as habitat restoration or scientific research. The next steps are to investigate what is happening to identify conservation priorities for birds in the future.

## Turtle Dove

In 2021, FACE was actively involved in the European Commission’s (EC) workshops focusing on the sustainability of Turtle Dove hunting in the EU and framing its Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) programme. FACE and its Members’ participation was crucial to represent the interests of the hunting community during these meetings.

For the Western flyway (France, Spain, Portugal and 3 north-west regions of Italy) a zero quota was decided

**Table 1: Huntable species for which the 2021 assessment led to a worse status**

SCIENTIFIC NAME BY TAXONOMIC ORDER	ENGLISH NAME	2021 EUROPEAN RED LIST CATEGORY	2015 EUROPEAN RED LIST CATEGORY
<i>Anas acuta</i>	Northern Pintail	VU	LC
<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Tufted Duck	NT	LC
<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Common Eider	EN	VU
<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Red-legged Partridge	NT	LC
<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Common Quail	NT	LC
<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	Ruff	NT	LC
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Common Snipe	VU	LC
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Common Redshank	VU	LC
<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Rook	VU	LC



for the season 2021. Despite the population model estimating the species' population growth rate showing that a limited and sustainable harvest level would be possible, the EC adopted a very precautionary approach.

Regarding the Central/Eastern flyway (Malta, Greece, Italy, Austria, Bulgaria, Romania, Cyprus), research showed that a reduced harvest was possible. A 50%

reduction of the harvest level was recommended as a precautionary approach, and this was supported by the relevant national hunting associations.

Now that the Turtle Dove hunting season 2021 is over, next steps for FACE and its Members are to provide data and expert advice to update the AHM process for the 2022 season.

**Table 2: Huntable species for which the 2021 assessment led to a better status**

SCIENTIFIC NAME BY TAXONOMIC ORDER	ENGLISH NAME	2021 EUROPEAN RED LIST CATEGORY	2015 EUROPEAN RED LIST CATEGORY
<i>Aythya marila</i>	Greater Scaup	LC	VU
<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Long-tailed Duck	LC	VU
<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	Willow Grouse	LC	VU
<i>Lagopus muta</i>	Rock Ptarmigan	LC	NT
<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	Chukar	LC	NT
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit	NT	VU
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Eurasian Curlew	NT	VU
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	European Herring Gull	LC	NT
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing	LC	NT

## LARGE CARNIVORES



The European hunting community is an active player in large carnivore conservation and management and directly contributes to their monitoring in large carnivore (LC) conservation and management and directly contributes to their monitoring, as well as the management of their habitats and prey across our continent. In Europe's densely populated multifunctional landscapes, humans and LCs 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 LC management and conservation. This is based on the scientific knowledge of populations, as well as the human dimensions in order to effectively reduce conflicts.

On 12 October 2021, the European Commission (EC) published the long-awaited, revised EC Guidance document on the "strict protection of animal species of community interest under the Habitats Directive". The document updates and replaces the earlier guidance elaborated in 2007. It is particularly important for large carnivore management.

The non-legally binding document provides the EC's understanding of the legal provisions under articles 12 and 16 of the Habitats Directive (including recent rulings of the Court of Justice of the European Union). Further, it considers the experience and knowledge developed over the last 15 years of implementation of the directive. The document does not introduce legal change to the existing derogation systems.

Following its publication, FACE produced an analysis and action plan to support the key aims of its work on the Habitats Directive and large carnivores:

1. Ensuring the incorporated flexibility in the Habitats Directive remains unhindered and implemented at national level.
2. Correct implementation of Article 19 of the Habitats Directive, which requires adjusting the protection level of certain species' populations when they reach a favourable conservation status.
3. Stressing that active management and lethal control can be compatible with achieving favourable conservation status. This is supported by numerous examples across Europe.

Further, FACE engaged with several MEPs and met EC representatives to discuss some shortcomings of this guidance document, e.g. promotion of reduced flexibility.

Furthermore, the FACE Legal Affairs and Large Carnivores Working Groups met virtually to discuss the implications of the revised EC guidance document for hunting and the hunting community in the future.



# BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

Hunters share a passion for nature and wildlife. This is why they engage every day right across Europe to conserve and restore biodiversity. FACE created the FACE Biodiversity Manifesto to show European hunters' active commitment in biodiversity conservation and their important contribution to implementing the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 on the ground. Hunters' significant role in biodiversity conservation is thus illustrated to both, policymakers and the wider public, by giving examples of their initiatives across Europe.

## FACE Biodiversity Manifesto

In 2021, FACE launched a new Biodiversity Manifesto website – [www.biodiversitymanifesto.com](http://www.biodiversitymanifesto.com) – which allows anyone to easily share their project. The Biodiversity Manifesto (BDM) is a substantial database of hunting-related conservation projects, which supports FACE's advocacy work in Brussels. It provides strong evidence showing that hunters make a crucial contribution to habitat restoration, protected areas, species monitoring and much more.

- **485+** hunting-related conservation projects
- **45%** of all projects focus on farmland habitats
- **25%** of all projects take place on “Natura 2000” sites
- **8** vast categories under which the projects are reported each year

Every month, FACE chooses a hunting-related conservation project in Europe as its “*Project of the Month*” – underlining its importance to current policy matters. These projects highlight some of the many great initiatives hunters are undertaking to conserve biodiversity. We encourage you to inform us of new conservation projects, to best support our work in representing Europe's hunters. New projects can include: habitat and species management, monitoring and research, as well as awareness-raising. The key criterion of any project is that biodiversity benefits somehow through hunters' contribution.









## BDM Reporting

Each year, FACE develops an implementation report to assess hunters' progress being made in the field. The 2021 report was based on more than 470 projects undertaken by European hunters on how they contribute to biodiversity conservation. This report focuses on how hunters' work already contributed to achieving the actions set out in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

## Celebrating 10 years of promoting the conservation value of hunting

At the occasion of the 58<sup>th</sup> FACE General Assembly in Budapest, FACE Members and delegates celebrated the Biodiversity Manifesto's 10th anniversary with a surprise awards ceremony and a birthday cake. FACE President, Torbjörn Larsson, acknowledged the ever-growing number of extraordinary conservation projects





recorded and thanked its members for sharing their projects. FACE held an awards ceremony to recognise its members' special conservation efforts to the Biodiversity Manifesto.

**Torbjörn Larsson** praised the successful work undertaken over 10 years: "With hundreds of projects recorded, all available in the one digital space, we have now strong and irrefutable evidence that shows that hunters make a crucial contribution to habitat restoration, protected areas, species monitoring and much more".

## 2021 Awards for FACE Members: Excellent contribution to FACE's Biodiversity Manifesto

- **Best Turtle Dove Project**  
*Hellenic Hunters' Confederation*
- **Best Project of the Month**  
*Polish Hunting Association*
- **Best Project Media Coverage**  
*Federation for Hunting & Conservation, Malta*
- **Most BDM Projects**  
*Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs*
- **Best Research/Monitoring Project**  
*Federazione Italiana Della Caccia*
- **Best Video**  
*Czech Hunting Association*
- **Best Invasive Alien Species Project**  
*European Bowhunting Federation*
- **Best Species Project**  
*Real Federación Española De Caza*
- **Best Restoration Project**  
*Hubertus Vereniging Vlaanderen*
- **Most Innovative Project**  
*Estonian Hunters' Society*





## INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

### Invasive Alien Species Regulation: Updates and cooperation with the Bern Convention

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are one of the five main drivers of biodiversity loss. In Europe alone, there are over 12,000 alien species of which 15% are invasive and pose a severe threat to Europe's biodiversity.

The legal instrument concerning IAS is the EU Regulation 1143/2014 and its backbone the list of invasive alien species of Union concern ("the Union list") which has to be regularly updated. After finalising risk assessments and socioeconomic impact assessments in 2021, a total of 30 new species will be added to the Union list early 2022. For hunters, three species are relevant: the Canadian beaver (*Castor canadensis*), the Chital deer (*Axis axis*) and the Finlayson's squirrel (*Callosciurus finlaysonii*).



Hunters play an essential role in the management and control of IAS. This was also recognized this year by the secretariat of the Bern Convention. FACE has been given the opportunity to present its 2021 implementation report of the Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS at the 41<sup>st</sup> Standing Committee of the Bern Convention that was held from 29 November to 3 December 2021.

#### Responding to the initiative, the secretariat of the Bern Convention stated:

*"Civil society organisations play an important role in the implementation of strategies and tools developed by the Bern Convention. The Secretariat of the Bern Convention is grateful for the efforts FACE and IAF are making to regularly engage with hunting associations around Europe to combat the spread of Invasive Alien Species."*

In 2021, FACE's Biodiversity Manifesto - which hosts a large database of conservation projects - published many examples of hunters' good work in managing IAS: <https://www.biodiversitymanifesto.com/category/invasive-alien-species/>





## INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

FACE actively engages 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 an opportunity for FACE to raise awareness of the international profile of hunters as conservationists, as well as finding possibilities for working with other conservationists.

### Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

CITES seeks to regulate international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants at sustainable levels to ensure that they are not threatened. This Convention is mainly relevant for hunters in relation to the import/export of hunting trophies. Further, CITES is one of the key international agreements for:

- setting the global conservation agenda,
- establishing conservation principles,
- providing the tools and means for cooperation



### 73<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee and 31<sup>st</sup> Animals Committee

Following the postponement of the Committee meeting in October 2020, the 73rd Standing Committee meeting took place on May 5-7, 2021. Standing Committee members and observers reviewed several operational



and policy matters affecting the implementation of the Convention, as well as the progress of the already established working groups. FACE followed with great interest the first online meeting of CITES and engaged in relevant discussions.

The Animal Committee meetings took place on 31 May and 1 June 2021, as well as a joint session with the Plants Committees on 4 June 2021. FACE followed the online discussions of the Animal Committee, where a high number of committee members and observers attended. Based on its mandates, the committee discussed several issues. For example, species' conservation and trade status and the Convention's relationship with other bodies and organisations, like the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD). Moreover, 20 in-session working groups were established to address more specific matters, in particular lions and vultures. FACE participated in the online meetings and joined several Working Groups.

### IUCN World Conservation Congress, 2021



From 3-11 September 2021, the IUCN World Conservation Congress took place in Marseille, France, following its postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Several thousand representatives from governments, NGOs, Indigenous people, businesses, and scientific experts met to set the nature conservation agenda to 2030 and beyond.





**Discussions and decisions focused on three main topics:**

- Nature-based recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic
- Ongoing climate and biodiversity crisis
- Necessary transformation of the global financial system into investment frameworks that benefit nature

In response to COVID-19 (and any potential future pandemics), the congress’s outcomes stated that pandemic risks could be significantly reduced by addressing the main causes and drivers of biodiversity loss. Further, sustainable food production practices need to be promoted. This includes biodiversity-friendly farming activities, indigenous and local knowledge rights, as well as sustainable hunting, trade, and wildlife use which maintain and improve environmental health.

FACE ensured that debates about sustainable nature use were pragmatic and evidence-based – in line with the global conservation and restoration agendas. Sustainable hunting is and must also be part of future global conservation strategies.

**AEWA**

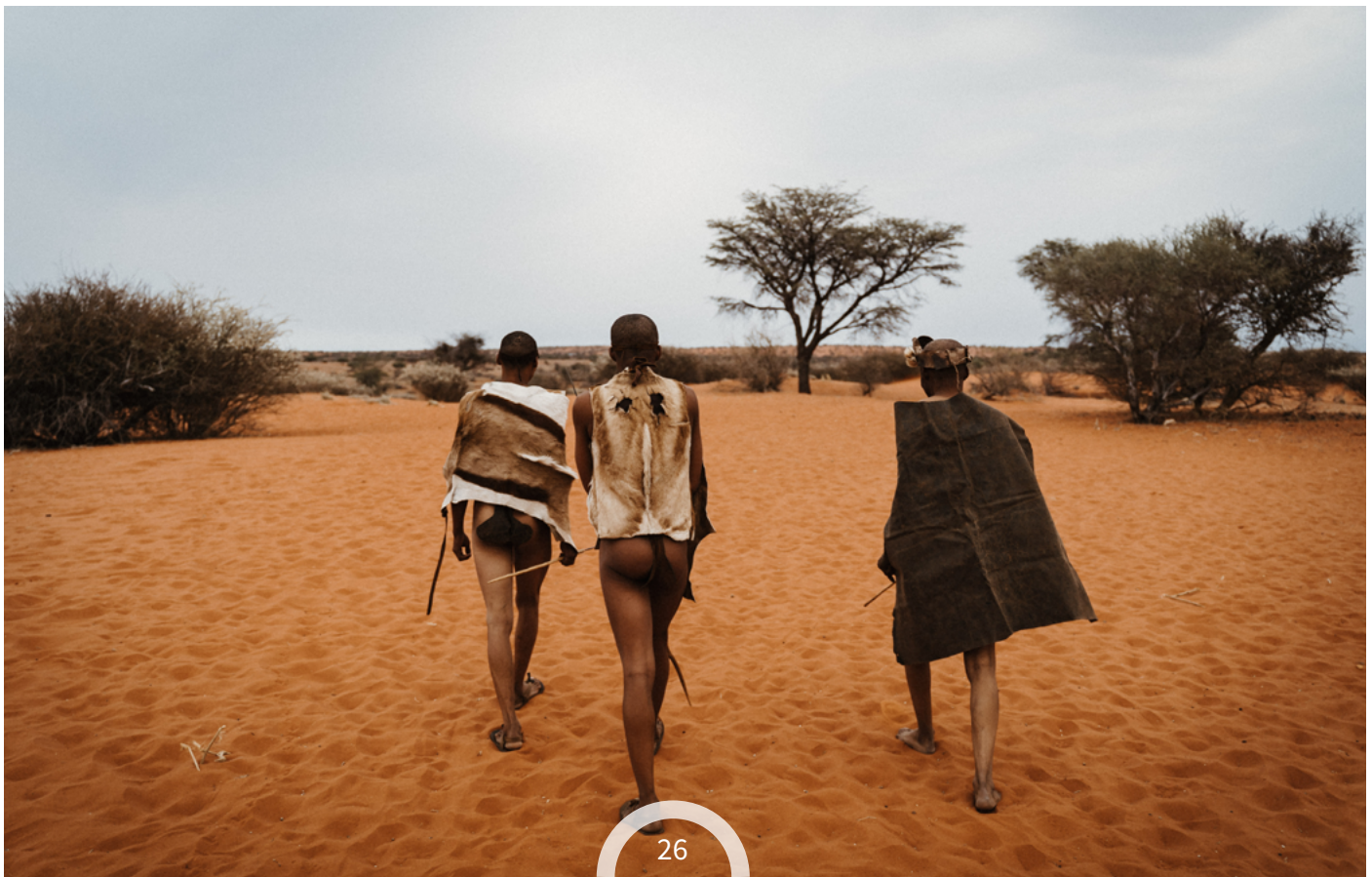


FACE is an observer of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds and is actively involved in the processes relevant to migratory bird hunting in the EU.

This involved participation in meetings of the Common Eider Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) technical group throughout 2021, to proactively discuss the implementation of the species’ adaptive management once its Action Plan is approved. However, the approval of the action plan was delayed due to the postponement of the 8th Meeting of the Parties (MOP8) to October 2022.

On a regular basis, FACE was involved in AEWA’s Technical Committee, Standing Committee, and African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership Strategic Working Group meeting (AEWMP SWG) meetings.

FACE also participated in AEWA’s European Goose Management Platform and particularly in meetings of





several Task Forces dealing with the Barnacle, Greylag, Lesser white-fronted Geese, the Agriculture Task Force and the EGMP International working group meeting.

## Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

As an observer of the Convention on Migratory Birds (CMS), FACE actively participated in processes relevant to hunting in the EU and represented the hunting community in the fight against illegal killing of birds.

Importantly, FACE participated in the Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points (SFPs) on:

- Eradication of Illegal Killing
- Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds
- CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing
- Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean in June 2021 (MIKT4)

FACE was also given the opportunity to present hunters' work on combatting the illegal killing of birds, thanks to information submitted by FACE Members. Further, FACE participated in the 5th Meeting of the

Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC5) and the Avian and Terrestrial Species Working Groups.

FACE also took part in discussions during the 52nd Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (StC52), regarding the draft Terms of Reference for the creation of the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on phasing out lead ammunition use including lead fishing tackle (the Lead Task Force).

## Bern Convention

The Bern Convention is the first international agreement (formed 1979) dedicated to nature conservation – protecting both, habitats and species. It covers most of Europe and some African countries (total: 51 States).

Throughout 2021, FACE followed the work under the Bern Convention by attending several expert group meetings. In this way, FACE ensured that interests and needs of hunters as well as the sustainable use of resources are high on the agenda.

From 29 November - 3 December 2021, FACE participated at the 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention, also named the Convention on the



Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.

The event took place online for the second time and attracted a record number of over 200 participants including 44 Contracting Parties.

Under the agenda item on Invasive Alien Species (IAS), the secretariat of the Bern Convention thanked FACE for delivering the 2021 implementation report of the Code of Conduct on Hunting and Invasive Alien Species. FACE is proud that the Bern Convention recognizes hunters' efforts around IAS as effective conservation tools.

Further meeting highlights were the Bern Convention vision to 2030 that was adopted, as well as the outcomes of activities implemented throughout 2021.

Relevant to the hunting community, the meeting discussed:

- The possible eradication of the Ruddy Duck by 2025
- Combating illegal killing of birds
- The Emerald Network

By attending this meeting, FACE ensured to stay up to date with these matters.

## 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 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:

- FACE's position on trapping
- Further information on AIHTS
- Our work on best practice trapping guidelines for the Raccoon Dog, Muskrat, Red Fox, European pine marten and Eurasian beaver.





## ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE

Hunters actively monitor the health and welfare of wild animals. This includes rapid identification and response to diseases such as African Swine Fever (ASF), Rabies, and Avian Influenza (AI) – also known as “Avian Flu” or “Bird Flu”. Furthermore, Europe’s hunters are key partners of European and international (World Organisation for Animal Health - OIE) initiatives that combat animal to human transmissible diseases (zoonoses).



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

### ASF

African Swine Fever (ASF) and Avian Influenza (AI) continued to spread in Europe in 2021. ASF is an infectious, viral disease of pigs and wild boar, which is generally fatal. Currently, ASF is present in 10 Member States (MSs): Lithuania, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Germany, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovakia, Greece, Italy. Whereas AI – a highly contagious viral disease primarily affecting poultry and wild water birds – is now present in North-western Member States (MSs), after having started to spread to the EU’s southern part (beneath the Po River). Biosafety measures remain vital for disease prevention in both cases.

The European Commission – DG SANTE – recognises hunters’ essential role in combatting ASF and reducing wild boar density. Focusing on legal developments, a new “Animal Health Law” was agreed in 2021 with different implementing regulations, which simplified EU legislation in the area.



FACE was also active on a problematic motion for resolution on antibiotics presented by a Green Party Member of the European Parliament. The motion advocated for reserving a broader list of antibiotics for human treatment of certain infections. Therefore, (veterinary) essential antibiotics could no longer be used for animal treatment – with potentially serious implications for hunting dogs, birds of prey and horses. In the end, the sensible approach proposed by the EC – in line with the advice of the EU agencies – prevailed, and the motion was defeated in the European Parliament in September.









## African Swine Fever reaches Italy: Several cases confirmed

On 7 January 2022, regional authorities confirmed the first case of African Swine Fever (ASF) – an infectious viral disease of pigs and wild boar – in Piedmont, Italy. The analysis of a wild boar carcass carried out by the Experimental Zooprophyllactic Institute of Piedmont, Liguria, and Valle d'Aosta revealed the presence of the disease. The animal carcass was found in Ovada (Alessandria province), located about 120 km southwest of Milan in northern Italy. Other carcasses were found in neighbouring areas - Franconalzo, Voltaggio and, Isola del Cantone - between Piedmont and Liguria, resulting in 6 cases to date. The infected area identified by the Ministry of Health now covers 114 municipalities, 78 in Piedmont and 36 in Liguria.

### Next steps in Italy

Accordingly, the Ministry urged the two regions to suspend hunting in all municipalities falling within the infected area. Instructions were given to the adjacent regions to implement a series of measures to prevent further spread of ASF. The Italian hunting association, Federcaccia (FIDC), mobilised its national structure to fully collaborate with the regions in line with national protocols. The task now is to quickly isolate the locations where carcasses are found, in order to prevent further spread.

## Successful ASF-eradication

The Czech Republic and Belgium successfully eradicated the disease and were declared ASF free by the European Commission. These countries act as exemplary models for other affected countries when it comes to effective management of ASF – including optimal biosecurity measures, surveillance and control.

### Hunters' role in ASF management

Hunters are trained animal health professionals, and thus have a key role in helping to detect, monitor and control diseases like ASF. Population management is essential due to the high and rapidly increasing population numbers of wild boar contributing to the transmission of ASF.

### Action at EU & international level

Both FACE and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) remain active in communicating with members and numerous stakeholders in policy discussions on future ASF-control.

### Further information

Federcaccia's press release <https://www.federcaccia.org/peste-suina-no-allarmismi-e-strumentalizzazioni-ma-concreto-coinvolgimento-del-mondo-venatorio/>

FACE recommendations for hunting associations and hunters in preparing for and dealing with ASF in the field: <https://www.face.eu/animal-welfare/african-swine-fever/recommendations/>

# 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: Implementation

In 2021, FACE continued to monitor national implementation of the Firearms Directive, which is still not finalised in some countries. FACE provided advice to its Members in cases where some governments attempted to introduce unjustified restrictions on firearms for hunting. Regarding the European Firearms Pass (EFP), FACE has been advocating for a digital system as well as calling for correct implementation (e.g. in Sweden). In 2021, FACE developed a map of national rules on travelling with firearms following Brexit where the EFP will no longer apply to UK citizens.

## EU Regulation published on the use of lead shot over wetlands

The EC regulation banning lead shot over wetlands was published in early 2021 and will take effect from February 2023 onwards in all EEA countries.

### How is this Regulation different?

- The definition of “wetlands” could be broader than existing national laws. For example, it could include peatlands – with and without visible water.
- An aggravated element is that all wetlands have a fixed buffer zone of 100 meters around them. Discharging lead shot in or within 100 metres of wetlands is prohibited, regardless of the species being hunted.
- Anyone carrying lead shot within 100 meters of “wetlands” could be presumed guilty of wetland shooting, unless that person can demonstrate that it is intended for any other type of shooting.

Following widespread criticism from FACE, its Members, and partners on how the Ramsar definition lacks legal certainty, the EC stated that the definition of wetlands should be interpreted “proportionately” in line with the “objective” of the regulation.





## Restricting lead in all ammunition

In 2021, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) was busy developing a restriction proposal addressing the risks 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.

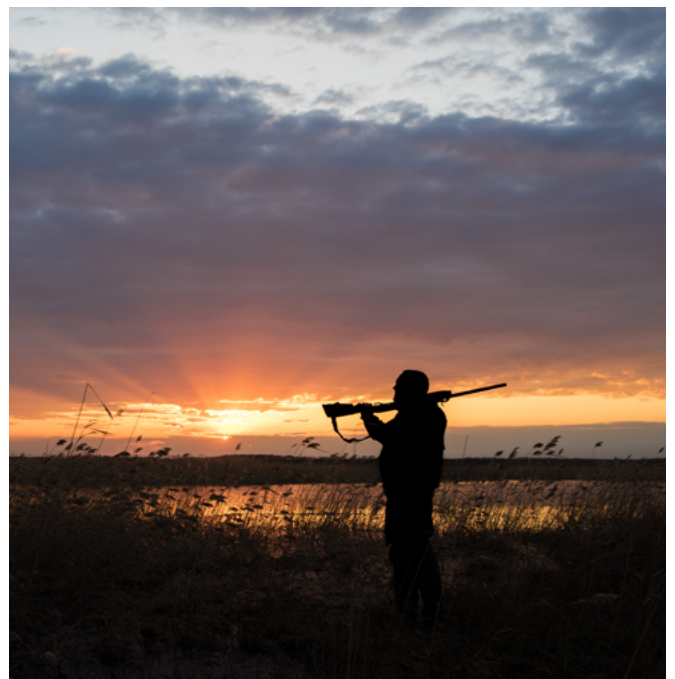
ECHA's proposal was assessed by its Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) and its Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) in 2021, and this work continues into 2022. There were some consultations with relevant stakeholders including FACE during 2021 and these will continue into 2022.

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). Further, any proposals must include adequate derogations (e.g. for sports shooting) and exemptions where alternatives are lacking and/or technically unfeasible.

## FACE Ammunition Working Group

The FACE Ammunition Working Group was active during 2021 to discuss important policy developments related to ammunition. An example of a previous initiative from the Working Group includes the development of a FACE website "Guidance on Managing Risks from Lead Ammunition":

[www.leadammunitionguidance.com](http://www.leadammunitionguidance.com)



## HUNTING METHODS AND CULTURE

In 2021, FACE adopted a position on falconry, which advocates to promote the continued growth of falconry – the art of hunting with trained birds of prey - across Europe. Falconry safeguards cultural heritage, while bringing important conservation and socio-economic benefits. The position was unanimously adopted by FACE members at the FACE General Assembly in September 2021.

Furthermore, towards the end of 2021, FACE was delighted that UNESCO decided to include six new countries on the inscription “Falconry, a living human heritage” of the Representative List for the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (ICH). This listing implied the vote in support

of all 180 countries in UNESCO ICH, as the convention works by consensus. These additions contribute to the global recognition for 24 countries, highlighting the need to promote and encourage the cultural importance of falconry. Listing of any element on the International List obligates governments, not only to allow, but to assist and promote the element. This listing by UNESCO may be used to back up arguments in favour of falconry – even in countries, which are not signatories to the convention.

During 2021, FACE was also active in working with the European Bowhunting Federation (EBF) on a number of initiatives to promote bowhunting in various European countries.





## FACE PATRON PROGRAMME

In 2019, FACE developed its “Patron Programme” to provide support to the hunting sector for a strong future for hunting and conservation in Europe. The FACE Patron Programme is the foundation for developing an essential and well-connected network and supports FACE’s work in the fields of hunting, conservation, communication, science, EU and international policy, legal and public affairs.

### FACE welcomes support from stakeholders to:

- ensure good decision-making affecting hunting and conservation
- ensure a strong basis for handling complex EU and international policy affairs
- promote hunters’ important conservation work for biodiversity
- highlight the benefits of hunting to nature and society

FACE Patrons have a direct contact with the FACE team in Brussels and benefit from insight on relevant hunting-related activities and topics. FACE appreciates the support from each of its Patron:

**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, and 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.



**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.

**HUNTER & CO.** In late 2020, FACE was also proud to welcome the Munich-based company, and their hunting application "MyHunt" to the FACE patron programme. Hunter & Co. brings together hunters, software developers and nature enthusiasts, whose shared vision is made possible through the MyHunt app, the "faithful companion that is always in the hunter's pocket, providing assistance before, during and after the hunt, allowing you to simply enjoy nature."

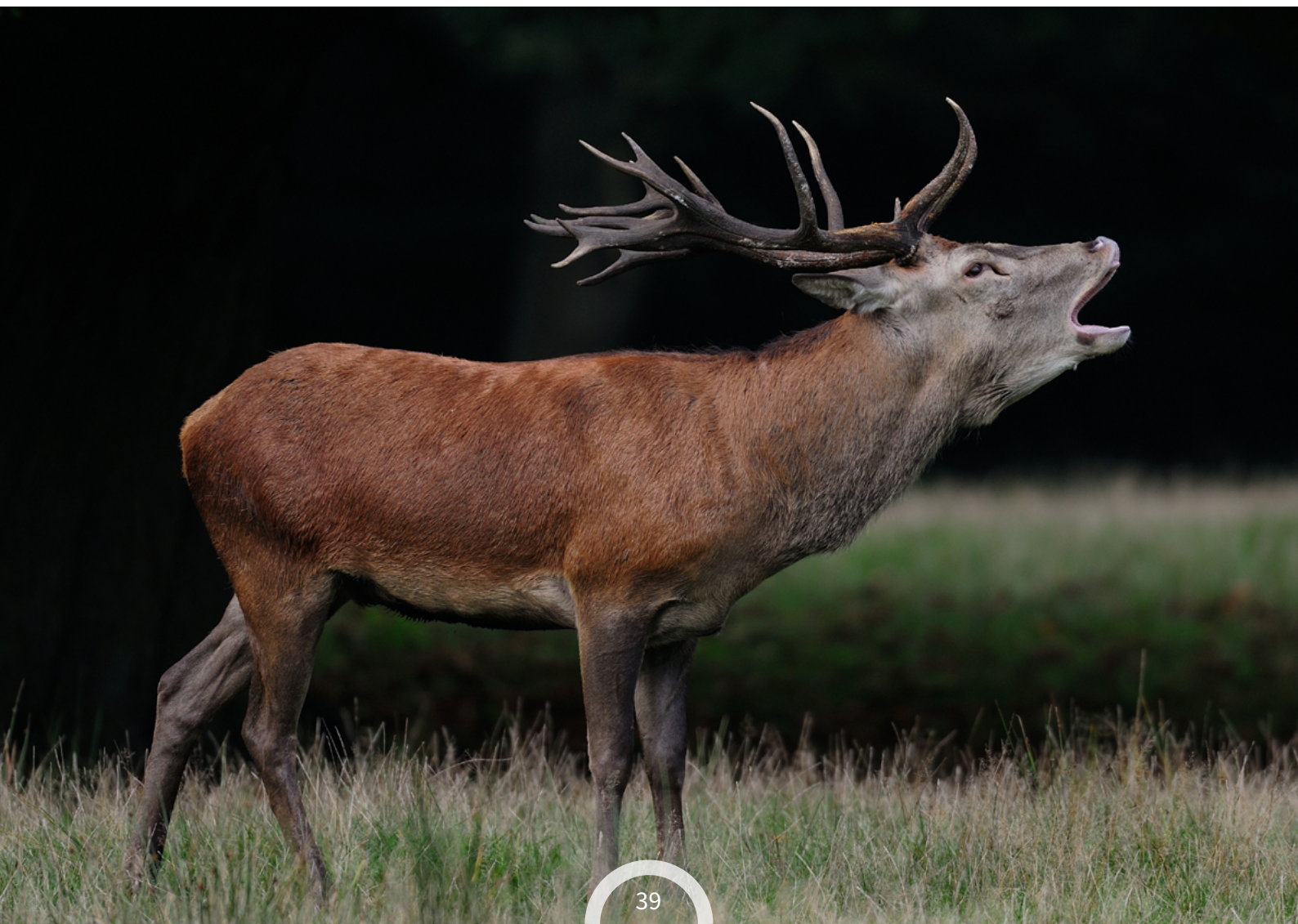
**ONE WITH NATURE** was FACE's latest Gold Patron in 2021, with both assisting each other to achieve their goals. One with Nature (OWN) was one of the world's largest nature

exhibitions in 2021, which took place from 25 September to 14 October 2021 (in a Covid-19 approved environment).

When unveiling the 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 European level, where 80% of the national rules affecting hunting and conservation emerge".

**Interested in becoming a FACE Patron?**

Contact us at: [communication@face.eu](mailto:communication@face.eu)



## FINANCES

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 around 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 Directorate Environment 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, please see:**

[http://europa.eu/transparency-register/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/transparency-register/index_en.htm)

### PERIOD FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021

#### INCOME

Membership fees	74.7%
EC Subvention (LIFE NGO Grant)	12.9%
Operational projects	6.2%
Partnerships	4.2%
Subsidies	1.3%
Recovery (past years)	0.3%
Belgian subvention	0.2%
Bank interests	0.2%

#### EXPENDITURE

Staff costs	73.2%
Work programme costs	10.3%
Administration	5.9%
Office costs	5.4%
Staff missions	2.5%
Depreciation (annual liability)	1.9%
President's missions	0.4%
Consumables	0.3%
Extraordinary charges (past years)	0.1%







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With the financial  
support of the  
European Commission