



# ACTIVITY REPORT 2023

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# ABOUT FACE



The European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE) is a Brussels-based organisation that was established in 1977 to represent the interests and values of hunters in Europe. It is an international, non-profit, and non-governmental organisation that serves as a democratic representative body for hunters in Europe, with over 7 million Members. It is one of the largest civil society organisations in Europe and the world and consists of 36 national hunters' associations, including the EU-27, as well as 7 associate members.

FACE is committed to sustainable hunting practices and has been a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 1987. FACE works with its Members on various hunting and conservation-related issues, from international conservation agreements to local implementation matters. Its objective is to support the future of hunting and conservation across Europe.

# PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



Dear Members, friends and partners,

2023 was a significant year for Europe's hunters. FACE landed its **European Hunters' Campaign** with over 360,000 signatures, making it one of the largest campaigns in Brussels. The good news is that a number of our campaign requests are coming to fruition, but the journey remains difficult.

It's positive to see the European Commission's legal proposal (in December 2023) to **change the status of the wolf** under the Bern Convention. The wolf population has increased by 81% in the last 10 years, sparking a wide range of conflicts. Of course, this is a hotly discussed file, largely because the voting competence lies with environment ministries.

New **animal welfare proposals** were also published in late 2023, which need FACE's input because of the potential impacts on hunting dogs.

The European Commission framework for sustainable bird hunting advanced at the technical level, which will produce results in 2024. FACE has been actively engaged to ensure the process is science-based.

The European Parliament also agreed on revisions to the EU Firearms Regulation, a **new**

**nature restoration law**, new forest rules, and a wide range of other environmental initiatives linked to the European Green Deal.

I am pleased to report that during 2023, FACE continued to benefit from its 2027 strategy, which led to the development of two new resources, bringing the staff count to 18.

It's clear that when we work actively together, we can make a difference in achieving our vision: *"A Europe rich in biodiversity and hunting opportunities"*.

Finally, the **"Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside" Intergroup** remained active, and many Members of the European Parliament were actively engaged. During 2023, several high-level events were organised with great participation.

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.

Thank you for your continuous support!

**Torbjörn Larsson**  
FACE President

# 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.

## SECRETARY GENERAL

Dr David Scallan

## ADMINISTRATION

Charlotte Nyffels  
*Office and Business Manager*

Diana Marinescu  
*Office Administrator*

## COMMUNICATION

Alessio Borrello  
*Communication Manager*

Bob Groome  
*Communication and Policy Officer*

Jennifer Eve Smith  
*Communication and Social Media Officer*

Sabine Borgers-Guse  
*Senior Translator*

Tristan Breijer  
*Policy Advisor*

## CONSERVATION

Cy Griffin  
*Senior Conservation Manager*

Sabrina Dietz  
*Wildlife Policy Officer*

Stanislas Sibille  
*Conservation Policy Officer*

Luís António Panão da Costa  
*Biodiversity Policy Assistant*

Guillaume Agède  
*Policy Advisor on Large Carnivores*

## LEGAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Valentina Siddi  
*Legal & Public Affairs Manager*

Konstantina Katrimpouza  
*Legal Affairs Officer*

Seppo Puustinen  
*Policy Advisor*

# 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 Διαιθφής Αγρίας Ζωις*

**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 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*

**United Kingdom:** *FACE UK*

**Ukraine:** *All-Ukrainian Association of Hunters and Users of Hunting Grounds (UAHHG)*

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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

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

*Conservation Force*

*Dallas Safari Club (DSC)*

*European Bowhunting Federation (EBF)*

*Safari Club International (SCI)*

*Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF)*

*Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF)*

## PARTNERS

*Association européenne des chasses traditionnelles (AECT)*

*Institut européen pour la gestion des oiseaux sauvages et de leurs habitats: Oiseaux Migrateurs du Paléarctique Occidental (OMPO)*

*Nordic Hunters' Alliance (NHA)*

## FACE BOARD

**President - Torbjörn LARSSON**

**Secretary General - Dr. David SCALLAN**

**Treasurer General - David CLAVADETSCHER**

**Vice-President, France - Nicolas RIVET**

**Vice-President, Germany - Dr. Volker BÖHNING**

**Vice-President, United Kingdom - Ian BELL**

**Vice-President, Spain - Manuel GALLARDO**

**Vice-President, Italy - Gian Luca DALL'OLIO**

**Vice-President, Central Region - Srečko ŽERJAV**

**Vice-President, Atlantic Region - Dieter DE METS**

**Vice-President, Baltic Region - Linda DOMBROVSKA**

**Vice-President, Mediterranean Region - Lino FARRUGIA**

**Vice-President, Nordic Region - Tuomas HALLENBERG**

**Vice-President, South-East Region - Vasil VASILEV**



# THE “BIODIVERSITY HUNTING COUNTRYSIDE” INTERGROUP



The “Biodiversity Hunting Countryside” Intergroup is a cross-party group of Members of the European Parliament who work together on issues important for biodiversity, hunting, and the European countryside.

Intergroups are informal groups of MEPs that bring together members with a common interest to exchange ideas, promote initiatives, and raise awareness on specific topics.

Since its first establishment in 1985 this Intergroup has worked to enable an open dialogue with decision-makers, including European Commission, European Parliament and numerous experts.

During 2023, **FACE** and the **European Landowners’ Organization (ELO)** coordinated several policy-relevant events to discuss environmental hot topics, which were subject to media and political debate.

**20 September 2023**

**How the revision of Reg 258/2012 on import, export and transit measures for firearms will impact stakeholders**

**27 June 2023**

**Effectively Combating Wildlife Trafficking: An open debate in the European Parliament**

**07 June 2023**

**Sustainable hunting and conservation in Europe – An open debate to ensure new initiatives deliver for 7 million hunters**

More information can be found on:  
[www.biodiversityhuntingcountryside.eu](http://www.biodiversityhuntingcountryside.eu)  
[www.face.eu/intergroup](http://www.face.eu/intergroup)

# EUROPE'S BIODIVERSITY



## HOW HUNTERS CONSERVE EUROPE'S BIODIVERSITY

[BiodiversityManifesto.com](https://BiodiversityManifesto.com)

New projects online!

In recent years, several new policies have been introduced to address environmental challenges, advance sustainability, and reverse biodiversity loss.

Key among these initiatives are the **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030** and the new **EU Nature Restoration Law**, which is the first piece of legislation specifically aimed at restoring Europe's natural habitats.

Hunters play a crucial role in the implementation of EU environmental policies due to their direct interactions with the natural environment and wildlife.

As demonstrated by the FACE Biodiversity Manifesto, hunters contribute by supporting and promoting sustainable agriculture and participating in habitat conservation projects.

### FACE Biodiversity Manifesto

In 2023, the Biodiversity Manifesto continued its growth, reaching an impressive milestone of 528 projects with the addition of 30 new projects carried out by hunters and hunting organisations across Europe.

Most of the projects focused on nature restoration and the recovery and monitoring of both game and non-game species, including birds and large carnivores.

In December 2023, FACE published the **9th Report of the FACE Biodiversity Manifesto**, once again showcasing the dedicated efforts of European hunters in favor of nature and biodiversity.



## Nature Restoration Law

2023 was an important year for restoration. In the context of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the Restoration Law was finally adopted introducing time-bound obligations for Member States to restore a wide range of habitats. Hunters have long known that restoring habitats is an essential tool to ensure that biodiversity loss is reversed, and habitats and species can thrive again. At the time of writing the final formal vote of the European Parliament and the final formal approval of the Council should take place in February. After that, Member States will have two years after the date of entry into force of the law to present their national restoration plans to the European Commission, which will then have six months to submit observations.

Read more: [Agreement reached on the Nature Restoration Law](#)

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## CAP Strategic Plans entered into force

In 2023, the CAP National Strategic Plans finally entered into force. The framework provided by the new CAP post 2020 allows Member States to adopt ambitious measures for biodiversity and small game if they wish. It is still too early to understand whether significant progress has been made on increasing biodiversity, but the first preliminary assessments seem to show that the level of ambition most Member States put in eco-schemes and agri-environment schemes is not high enough.

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## Bern Convention

From November 27th to December 1st, 2023, FACE participated in the 43rd meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention. Held annually, this meeting gathers contracting parties, observer countries, and civil society organizations to oversee the treaty's implementation, which aims to conserve European wildlife.

This year's assembly was crucial as it saw the adoption of the Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention extending to 2030—a plan that FACE has actively contributed to over the past three years. Among the focal points of discussion were the reporting protocols under the Bern Convention, the illegal killing of birds, and measures against the spread of the invasive Ruddy Duck.

FACE also presented its 4th Implementation Report on the Code of Conduct concerning Hunting and Invasive Alien Species with contribution of 12 FACE members, which was positively received. Looking ahead to 2024, FACE will continue its collaboration by participating in various expert groups and working groups under the Bern Convention.

# MIGRATORY BIRDS

FACE played a pivotal role in implementing the EU Birds Directive, notably contributing to the EU's **Adaptive Harvest Management for Turtle Dove** and advancing tools for assessing hunting sustainability across all Annex II species.

Notable achievements include producing annual reports, active participation in EU Task Force meetings, and advocating for a 50% reduction in Turtle Dove hunting, while also making strides in categorizing species based on knowledge and utilizing statistical modeling for sustainability assessments, with initial results expected by March 2024.

See [here](#) and [here](#) for Turtle Dove report and update on year 2 of AHM implementation.

See [here](#) for bird population and harvest data reported from Member States and [here](#) for FACE's report harvest data quality, a first overview of this data.



# LARGE CARNIVORES

## Downlisting of the wolf under the Bern Convention

Just before Christmas 2023, the European Commission proposed to change the international protection status of wolves under the Bern Convention.

However, the success of the proposal depends now on the support of the Environmental ministries of the EU Member States.

Since a qualified majority needs to be reached in the Environmental Council, the efforts of FACE, FACE Members and the ministries themselves will be critical to ensuring their Member States vote to support this proposal.

The proposal from the Commission to downlist the wolf is based on scientific evidence, rational judgment, and the notable recovery and thriving of the species, indicating it is no longer considered threatened.

This initiative aligns with long-standing demands from the rural community and complies with the existing legal framework.



# FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

## Delayed: The European Commission's proposal to ban lead in ammunition under REACH

After a long process, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) published its formal “opinion” on restricting lead in ammunition last March (2023).

It proposed that the EU restrict the use of lead ammunition in hunting and sports shooting with various timelines and derogation conditions for shooting ranges.

The European Commission (EC) has been assessing ECHA's opinion for several

months now, but the legal proposal was not published in 2023.

Once the EC's proposal is made public, discussions will ensue in the EU REACH Committee (between Member States and the EC). Following the REACH Committee, the legal proposal will undergo 3 months of “scrutiny” in the European Parliament.

Read more about FACE's work [here](#).



## Revision of the “Firearms Regulation” ongoing

The revision of Regulation 258/2012 (the so-called Firearms Regulation) started at the end of 2022 and continued throughout 2023 with the decision of the European Parliament and the Council to enter into negotiations to find an agreement on the final text.

Ahead of the vote in the relevant EP committee, former **MEP Simone Schmidtbauer**, supported by FACE, hosted an Intergroup event to discuss the proposal

with policymakers and stakeholders.

Under the umbrella of the European Shooting Sports Forum (ESSF), FACE worked with industry, sport shooters, collectors to ensure that there was a unified position on the proposal.

READ MORE:

[How the revision of the Firearms Regulation will impact stakeholders](#)

# CITES & INTERNATIONAL HUNTING

## Effectively Combating Wildlife Trafficking

On 27 June 2023, European decision-makers, African delegations and NGOs met in the **European Parliament** to discuss how to best combat wildlife trafficking.

The event, which was hosted by **MEP Alex Agius Saliba (S&D Malta)**, aimed to raise awareness among EU institutions and stakeholders about the **EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking**, highlighting its importance in finding solutions to combat illegal wildlife trade.

During the event the sustainable use of wildlife was mentioned as an important means to encourage locally supported conservation efforts. [Read more here](#)

## CITES meetings

FACE attended the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee and the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC77) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Geneva, Switzerland.

FACE together with its international partners Safari Club International (SCI), Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF) and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) and other sustainable use organisations monitored and advocated on critical issues for hunters and conservation.

[Read more here](#)



# ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE

## The EC presented its animal welfare proposals

In December 2023, the Commission unveiled the animal welfare package, which includes the **Proposal for a Regulation on the protection of animals during transport and related operations** and the **Proposal on a Regulation on the welfare of dogs and cats** and their traceability.

A preliminary FACE analysis shows that there are several issues with the scope of the proposal. For instance, the fact that it could impact the non-commercial transport of animals.

FACE already informed its members and launched a survey to better understand how these proposals could impact the situation at the national level.

Further, it will discuss these points with the Commission in an upcoming meeting.

## African Swine Fever

In April 2023, a newly adopted Commission implementing regulation made compulsory for Member States to adopt national action plans for wild porcine populations to reduce wild boar population to prevent the spread of African Swine Fever.

An online meeting of the FACE African Swine Fever Task Force with the relevant DG SANTE officials took place in June 2023 to discuss the new legislation.

Unfortunately, the disease has continued to advance in 2023 with new cases in Sweden.

Nevertheless, the Swedish case once again proved the key role hunters have in searching for carcasses of infected animals. [Read more here](#)



# SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE OF HUNTING

FACE's Strategy for 2027 underscores the importance of its **social pillar** through rigorous surveys on the social acceptance of hunting across Europe.

Our recent results have overwhelmingly demonstrated strong support for **sustainable hunting**, reinforcing its broad acceptance and supporting FACE's position in policy discussions and communications.

Understanding society's attitudes is key, as FACE targets all **European countries** to measure public acceptance by 2025.

































These surveys are essential in providing robust evidence in favor of hunting acceptance, thus significantly influencing both **policy-making** and **public opinion**.

The success of these efforts has pushed additional countries to participate, recognising the impact of the surveys on shaping both public sentiment and policy frameworks.

FACE continues to advocate for its members to engage actively in this initiative, aiming to substantially enhance **social acceptance of hunting** throughout Europe.



# FACE PATRON PROGRAMME

 <b>GOLD PATRON</b> 	 <b>GOLD PATRON</b>       SINCE 1886	 <b>GOLD PATRON</b> 	 <b>GOLD PATRON</b> 	 <b>GOLD PATRON</b>    
 <b>SILVER PATRON</b>  <b>BROWNING</b>	 <b>SILVER PATRON</b>  <b>KRIEGHOFF</b>	 <b>BRONZE PATRON</b> 	 <b>BRONZE PATRON</b> 	 <b>BRONZE PATRON</b>  <b>Hornady</b>
 <b>BRONZE PATRON</b>  <b>LEUPOLD</b>	 <b>BRONZE PATRON</b>  <b>OUTDOOR</b> MARKETING INTERNATIONAL	 <b>BRONZE PATRON</b> 	 <b>BRONZE PATRON</b> 	

In 2023, FACE expanded its **Patron Programme** to seek support from the hunting sector, aiming to secure a sustainable future for hunting and conservation in Europe. This program is key to building a crucial network in the field.

FACE needs support from stakeholders to:

- represent the interests of hunters and the hunting sector in EU decision-making
- ensure decision-making affecting hunting and conservation is in the best interest of the hunting industry
- 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.



# 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/>

### PERIOD FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2023

#### INCOME

Membership fees	58%
EC Subvention (LIFE NGO Grant)	18%
Sector Partners	9%
Patron Programme	9%
Project funding	5%
EC Action Grant (LIFE WildWolf)	1%

#### EXPENDITURE

Staff costs	69%
Office costs	9%
Administration	7%
Work programme costs	7%
Missions	5%
Depreciation (annual liability)	2%
Mortgage	1%



**European Federation for Hunting and Conservation**

Av. de la Joyeuse Entrée 1/4, 1040 - Brussels  
[www.face.eu](http://www.face.eu)