



# European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE)

## Updates on efforts to combat IKB by European Hunters

The Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds  
&  
The CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean

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# FACE position

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- FACE has a long-standing policy zero-tolerance towards all wildlife crime, including illegal killing of birds

*It is a problem with a variety of motives, primarily illegal trade and smuggling, persecution (for competition or commercial reasons), indirect killing through poisoned baits – all committed by a large variety of actors.*

- For FACE, sustainable hunting is not a problem for illegal killing, but illegal killing is a problem for sustainable hunting!
- The hunting community has an important role in promoting compliance with the law
- Hunting associations and local clubs need support in preventing illegal activities



# FACE position (continued.)

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- There is unanimous support of amongst FACE's membership on a policy zero-tolerance towards illegal killing of birds
- Several FACE Members are seeking stronger partnerships with national enforcement authorities and local police to tackle wildlife crime
  
- However, there are impressions that public condemnation of illegal acts, and other positive actions by hunters are not well received. Motivation to tackle IKB is good, but interest in publicizing action is decreasing.
  
- What are the expectations of FACE from MIKT5?
  - Gain understanding of trends and progress on tackling IKB
  - Opportunities for collaborative work on IKB (COVID-19 has increased polarization)



# Best practice – Italian national action plan for combating offences against wild birds

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- All Italian Hunting Associations are represented in the steering committee of the Action Plan
- Having hunters as implementing partners has resulted in progress as, recognised in the 4<sup>th</sup> year implementation report (2021),
- Several references to actions by hunters, just one example (translation below):

Hunting Associations - Many Italian hunters have carried out, on a voluntary basis, a significant part of the wildlife prevention and control activities promoted by the Regions, collaborating with the Ambiti Territoriali di Caccia and the Comprensori Alpini. This activity has been carried out both through the distribution and implementation of prevention measures, and through control operations on problem species, especially corvids, ichthyophagous birds, starlings, pigeons and ringdoves. The role of hunting associations in this area was confirmed by Constitutional Court ruling no. 21 of 17.2.2021, which deemed the involvement of trained hunters and hunting clubs to be constitutionally legitimate.

G.V.V. in wildlife control activities.



# Best practice – Greek Game Guards

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## •Continued efforts in Greece

- ✓ Greek Public Forest Service: more than 1000 Wardens &
- ✓ Hunting Organizations fund more than 300 Gamekeepers for enforcement .
- ✓ Hellenic Hunters' Confederation still publically condemns IKB at all levels
- ✓ Between 2000 – 2020, 2.139.597 inspections were carried out and 36.132 violations of the Law on hunting were ascertained), for which all the legal procedures (sanctions, lawsuits, seizures etc.) provided for by the Law were followed.
- ✓ Focused efforts on patrolling islands (Strofadia, Zakynthos, Paxos..) during spring migration of Turtle Dove.
- ✓ Hunters training manual, legislation and good ethics published on Hellenic Hunters' Confederation website.



# FACE Biodiversity Manifesto

New website launched in 2021, mainly on conservation actions but also on actions against illegal killing of birds



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## FACE'S BIODIVERSITY MANIFESTO

The **Biodiversity Manifesto** is a substantial database of hunting-related conservation projects which support FACE's advocacy work in Brussels. We now have strong evidence to show that **hunters** make a crucial contribution to habitats restoration, protected areas, species monitoring and much more.

SHOW ME THE PROJECTS

WHAT IS "FACE"?

485+

HUNTING-RELATED CONSERVATION PROJECTS GATHERED UNTIL NOW

45%

OF ALL PROJECTS ARE FOCUSED ON FARMLAND HABITATS

25%

OF ALL PROJECTS ARE TAKING PLACE ON "NATURA 2000" SITES

8

VAST CATEGORIES UNDER WHICH THE PROJECTS ARE REPORTED EACH YEAR



SHARE YOUR PROJECT



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<https://www.biodiversitymanifesto.com/>



# Thanks

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<https://www.face.eu/>