



FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR HUNTING AND CONSERVATION OF THE EU

Hunting Tourism: for better or worse

Cy Griffin,
**European Federation for Hunting and Conservation
(FACE)**



FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR HUNTING AND CONSERVATION OF THE EU

- International non-profit-making NGO in Brussels since 1977;
- Represent our members, the national associations of hunters from 37 countries, which in turn account for 7 million hunters;
- Members from EU and Council of Europe.
- Vision: A Europe rich in biodiversity and hunting opportunities



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European Federation for Hunting and Conservation



FACE position paper adopted October 2022:

- strong support for “zero-tolerance” towards wildlife crime.
- Calls for a better understanding of the root causes ...
- Appeals to policy-makers to work together with the hunting community..
- Supports the need for effective and efficient enforcement of legislation related to wildlife crime

FACE position on combatting wildlife crime

Reaffirming FACE’s commitment at all levels to ensure wildlife crime is combatted;

Recalling the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity adopted by the Council of Europe's Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and other initiatives with the Bern Convention, the European Commission, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to combat wildlife crime;

Referring to the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT), which has been established under [CMS COP Resolution 11.16](#), and to the Rome Strategic Plan prepared by the Bern Convention and CMS which has the vision of a 50% reduction in the scale and scope of illegal killing of birds (IKB) by 2030.

Stressing FACE’s continued strong commitment towards “zero tolerance” of wildlife crime;



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Older FACE position paper on “Hunting abroad” adopted September 2004

“Particular attention should be given to the hunting of migratory species (mainly birds) by foreign visitors, for which international coordination, monitoring and management planning might be required.

Hunters, visiting another country or region to hunt there, should behave themselves as guests and strictly adhere to all relevant legal and administrative rules, while respecting the traditions, customs and socio-cultural sensitivities of the local populations.”

The Bern Convention – Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity

An open and transparent convention

“Civil society has been instrumental in helping State parties reach consensus on sometimes difficult or sensitive issues such as the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity, endorsed by the Standing Committee in November 2007.

The Charter is a non-binding set of principles and guidelines addressed to biodiversity regulators, managers, hunters and hunting tour operators, and it represents the collective efforts of governments, hunters and environmental organizations to achieve sustainable hunting within a biodiversity conservation approach. **The Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE), the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), and Birdlife International all played a crucial role to get the European Charter approved also by their constituencies so it is not ‘only’ a government document.**

NGOs also play a critically important watchdog role in the Bern Convention,.”

CAROLINA LASÉN DÍAZ (2010)



Hunting tourism

2004 Recommendation

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe emphasised that :

*“If managed professionally and scientifically, **hunting tourism** ... may prove to be a factor of **development for rural and mountain regions**. It may also make a **significant contribution to rural tourism, ecotourism, job creation and the preservation of local traditions**”*



The Charter on hunting and Biodiversity (2007)

Contains specific objectives on hunting tourism:

- Seeks to contribute to the sustainability of hunting tourism
- Promotes forms of hunting tourism that provide local communities with socio-economic incentives to conserve and manage wildlife and their habitats, as well as general biodiversity.
- Makes recommendations for hunting tour operators and hunters who engage their services



The Charter on hunting and Biodiversity (2007)

Each of the 12 principles has points directed at hunters and hunting tour operators.

For example - Principles 2 – Ensure that regulations are understandable and respected.

- a) Assist in development and acceptance of effective regulations;
- b) Follow and encourage respect for all rules and regulations pertaining to hunting, conservation measures (including protected areas), and private property;
- c) Embrace self-regulation where possible;
- d) Assist in preventing and reporting poaching.



More recently under IMPEL:



European Union Network
for the Implementation
and Enforcement of Environmental Law

HOME

EXPERT TEAMS

Tackling Illegal Activities
Connected to Hunting Tourism

2018 Ongoing

In 2019-2020 an online questionnaire has been sent out to inspectorates from member countries, Birdlife members and FACE-members. Based on the analysis of the reply on the questionnaire two countries will be selected for a joint inspection...

IMPEL study visit to Slovenia in 2017

- We concluded that we were impressed about the control systems in place with shared responsibilities for hunting organisations and inspectors. In our opinion, the key of success in Slovenia lies in the approach that game is property of the State and that after hunting, the game is owned by the **hunting club**/hunting family and not by individual hunters. We realise that this approach, which is based on long-standing hunting management traditions in Slovenia, is something that cannot be replicated in all other countries but for some countries, which are developing a new hunting systems, this could be an interesting approach to follow and offers important lessons. We are convinced that the success is also based on the long-term responsibility for the hunting areas based on long-term (20 year) concessions. **Our conclusions are that, based on these key factors, the system in itself prevents illegal activities.**



Some elements in the IMPEL Questionnaires:

- What are the issues/problems linked to tourist hunting in your country: Related to certain species / Related to the numbers of species harvested / Related to behaviour of hunting tourist, (i.e. are they hunting in the right areas, using legal hunting methods, following regulations?)
- How is hunting tourism regulated in your country?
- Are the products/specimens of game hunted in other countries by nationals of your country subject to any restrictions under your national law? For example, in relation to a species being brought back into your country?
- Does anything happen if a national of your country commits a crime as a hunting tourist in a foreign country?
- Is the cross-border movement of hunted game species inspected or monitored in your country?



Current challenges?

- *What are the trends and emerging problems?*
- *How to ensure the hunting tourism contributes to conservation and rural development?*
- *How to address these issues in the national Status review / IKB National Action Plans*
- *Consultation with hunting associations, clubs and hunting tourism operators.*