



# 3rd Meeting of the Special Focal Points for Illegal Killing of Birds

## Updates on FACE activities

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**Director of Conservation (acting)**  
**14-15 April 2016**

**FACE - Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU**





## Motivation...

hunting is not a problem for illegal  
bird killing...

...but illegal bird killing is a problem  
for sustainable hunting!





# FACE/BirdLife Agreement (2004)



## AGREEMENT between *BirdLife International* and FACE on Directive 79/409/EEC



As part of the European Commission's Sustainable Hunting Initiative (SHI), and following a number of meetings, FACE (the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU) and BirdLife International reached the following Agreement:

- 1) Both organisations recognize that the *Birds Directive* is an appropriate legal instrument for the conservation of both wild birds (including huntable species listed in Annex II of the *Birds Directive*) and their habitats at a favourable conservation status at EU level. Both organisations agree that the priority is to make the Directive work along the lines indicated in the *Guidance Document on Hunting under Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds*.
- 2) As a result of Point 1, neither organisation has the intention of taking or supporting initiatives aimed at amending the text of the *Birds Directive*. In the longer term, the two organisations do not rule out the possibility of a consolidation of the existing EU legal instruments for wildlife conservation, respecting their fundamental principles and without weakening the current provisions of the *Birds Directive*.
- 3) Both organisations acknowledge the historic and continuing significance of the compromises embedded in the *Birds Directive* in regard to hunting, and that such compromises form the basis for jointly promoting strategic conservation priorities such as working towards the target of halting biodiversity decline by 2010, the protection of sites and CAP reform.
- 4) Both organisations support the establishment of the NATURA 2000 Network and recognize the importance of effective habitat protection and active management for biodiversity conservation. Both organisations stress that in principle NATURA 2000 designation is not incompatible with hunting. They acknowledge that properly managed hunting inside NATURA 2000 sites can continue or take place so long as it is compatible with the site's conservation objectives. In this respect, they refer to the relevant Chapter 1.5 "Conservation of Habitats" of the *Guidance Document*.
- 5) Both organisations agree that it is desirable to reach local, regional or national agreements on bird hunting practices, to establish constructive dialogue between local stakeholders, and to achieve a rational assessment of effects and of measures to be taken. National Partners or Members of both organisations are free to work towards achieving more ambitious targets for biodiversity, sustainable hunting and bird conservation.
- 6) Both organisations are of the opinion that rational assessment of effects and measures, including those to be adopted in legislation and other rules on hunting, must be based on the best available and reliable data, especially for bird populations and hunting activity. The collection of hunting bag statistics, along with their scientific interpretation and proper use, is necessary.
- 7) Both organisations call upon the Commission and the Member States to develop, adopt and implement *Management Plans* for Annex II-species considered to be in an unfavourable conservation status.
- 8) Both organisations call upon the competent authorities to take appropriate initiatives to ensure the respect of all bird conservation legislation, in particular through proper enforcement but also by education and awareness raising initiatives. They offer their assistance in this respect.
- 9) Both organisations ask for the phasing out of the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands throughout the EU as soon as possible, and in any case by the year 2009 at the latest. They also underline the risks resulting from the release into the wild of non-indigenous bird species or subspecies.
- 10) It is further agreed by both organisations to establish a regular bilateral dialogue of consensus seeking, and to that end to meet at least twice a year, plus each time they consider such meeting as useful or necessary to address a specific topic. They will further exchange information, publications, etc. and promote this agreement among their national Partners or Members as well as collaborate with other relevant organisations and bodies (such as Wetlands International, IUCN, CIC, ELO, etc.).

*BirdLife International*

FACE

Brussels, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2004

Michael Rands  
Director and Chief Executive

Gilbert de Turckheim  
President

I would like to extend warm congratulations to *BirdLife International* and FACE on the signing of this important Agreement which I greatly welcome. This represents a central achievement of the *Sustainable Hunting Initiative*, which the Commission has promoted for the past 3 years. The constructive and cooperative work shown by both your organisations in reaching this valuable Agreement is appreciated by all the Commission services concerned.

Margot Wallström  
Commissioner for the Environment

- Example: New study on IK





# FACE/BirdLife Agreement

## Point 8:

Both organisations call upon the competent authorities to take appropriate initiatives to ensure the respect of all bird conservation legislation, in particular through proper enforcement but also by education and awareness raising initiatives.





# Main activities

- **2009** - BirdLife & FACE began survey work on illegal killing in EU
- **2011** - July, Bern Convention Conference on illegal Killing of Birds, Cyprus
- **2013** - May, Bern Convention, IKTT, Tunis – “**Tunis Action Plan**”
  - FACE Message: A clear distinction should be made between responsible hunters and sustainable hunting that forms part of European heritage, and criminal activity that must have no future place in it.
- **2014** - CMS Res. 11.16 The prevention of IKTT of Migratory Birds
  - Calls for Mediterranean Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade Task Force (MIKT) & FACE to be an observer





# Main activities

- **2015** - Feb, Meeting of the Special Focal Points for Illegal Killing of Birds
- **2015** - Nov, 2nd European Workshop on Environmental Crime, Wildlife poisoning, Barcelona
- **2015** - Nov, 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA Illegal Killing of Birds – Side Event - AEWA MOP, Bonn
- **2016** - Feb, “Illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds” - Meeting on the implementation of the **EU Roadmap** towards eliminating illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds, Brussels
- **Task Force** to Address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (Mediterranean Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade Task Force - MIKT), which FACE is an observer.
- **2016** - EU Action Plan on Wildlife Trafficking (Act.11, 13)

**So much activity... what role for FACE? Contribute, simplify, comm.**



CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS



**Standing Committee**

27<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 26-29 November 2007

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**European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity**







# Non-Binding Charters & Codes of Conduct

## Bern Convention charter on Hunting and Biodiversity (2007)

In particular the principles;

- No. 2 - Ensure that regulations are **understandable and respected**;
- No. 3 - Ensure that harvest is ecologically sustainable;
- No. 8 - **Empower local stakeholders** and hold them accountable;
- No. 11 - **Encourage cooperation** between all stakeholders

Partly targeted at hunting tourism to ensure it stays well within the boundaries of legality and wise and sustainable use – this remains a priority for FACE and its Members.

- New work on IMPEL project on hunting tourism (next week)
- Past work with BirdLife/FACE – to be continued







# Key challenges of IKTT

- Defining the problem of illegal killing of birds:
  - species not permitted for hunting
  - using illegal methods
  - in areas where hunting not permitted
  - by unauthorised people
  - ...avoid assumptions and simplistic solutions
- Setting priorities for action:
  - Scale – minor incidents to organised crime
- Ensuring international efforts result in progress at national, regional and local level.





# Key challenges of IKB

A wise approach is needed:

- What, where, by whom, how and **why**
- Consider the scale
- Target the right resources in the right place
- Work with stakeholders (this can be difficult)





# FACE communications

## Bern Convention Recommendation No. 155 (2011)

*Develop and support national communication strategies, promoting dialogue between all relevant interest groups, and noting cultural sensitivities. These strategies should be aimed to the conservation of bird population and based on the following principles:*

- (i.) this is about illegal killing of birds, not legal hunting;***
- (ii.) zero tolerance of illegal killing of wild birds;***
- (iii.) recognition of legal hunting and sustainable use.***





# And... The Role of Hunting...

*Acknowledging* the role of legal and sustainable hunting of birds in sustainable livelihoods and conservation of habitats and the role of the hunting community in promoting and encouraging compliance with the law and sustainable hunting practices...





# Activities related to IKTT

- FACE provides **awareness raising** and **advice** on regulation of hunting at international level and setting up partnerships to tackle wildlife crime.

Example:

- 5 Dec 2013: FACE participated at event where hunters from 7 countries in the Middle East and North Africa signed a Regional Declaration on Responsible Hunting, at a ceremony organised by the BirdLife International and UNDP/GEF Migratory Soaring Birds (MSB) in Beirut, Lebanon



## PROMINENT HUNTERS FROM MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA SIGN DECLARATION ON RESPONSIBLE HUNTING

5 Dec 2013





# National action on wildlife crime

- France – National Agency for Hunting and wildlife – ONCFS
- Role include policing
- ONCFS has own law enforcement officers
- Hunting licences contribute to much of the budget of the ONCFS – 70 million euro of a total budget of 120 million euro

## LES MISSIONS

### LA POLICE DE LA CHASSE ET DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT



**SURVEILLER LES TERRITOIRES RURAUX, ASSURER UNE PRESENCE AUPRES DES USAGERS DE LA NATURE**

- POUR LA PRÉVENTION DES ATTEINTES À LA FAUNE ET AUX MILIEUX NATURELS

**APPLIQUER LA REGLEMENTATION DE LA CHASSE**

- PAR LA LUTTE CONTRE LE BRACONNAGE
- PAR LE CONTRÔLE DES RÈGLES DE GESTION DE LA FAUNE

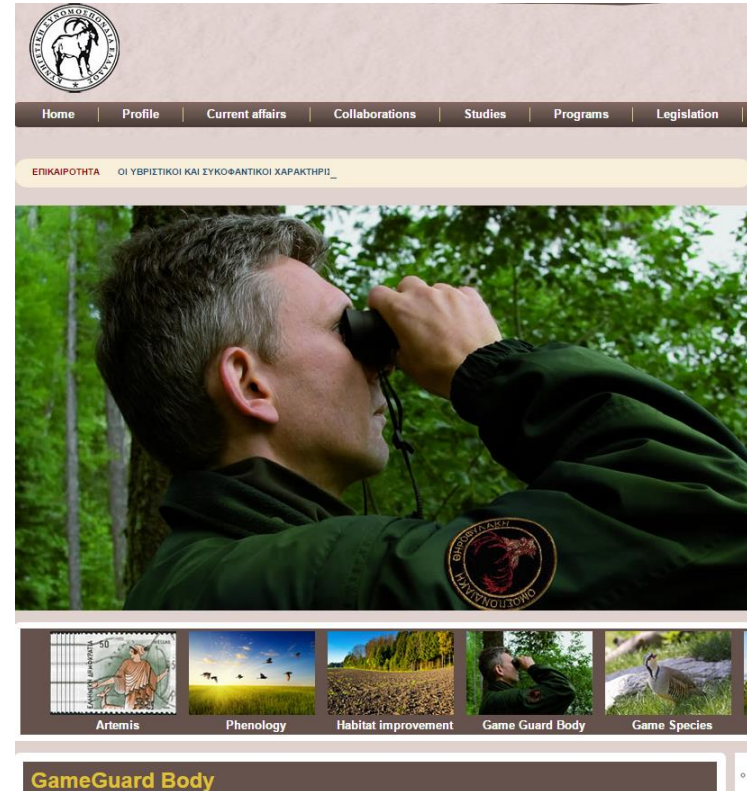






# National action on wildlife crime

- **Greece – Game Guard Body**
- In cooperation with Hellenic Hunters Confederation (FACE Member)
- In last 10 years more than **1,000,000 inspections** have been carried out and in excess of **18,000 violations** - continuous decrease in offenses over the years
- Hunting licences contribute to all of the **costs of 7 million euro annually** – including salary of 400 game guards







# National action on wildlife crime

## Malta – improvements in governance & enforcement

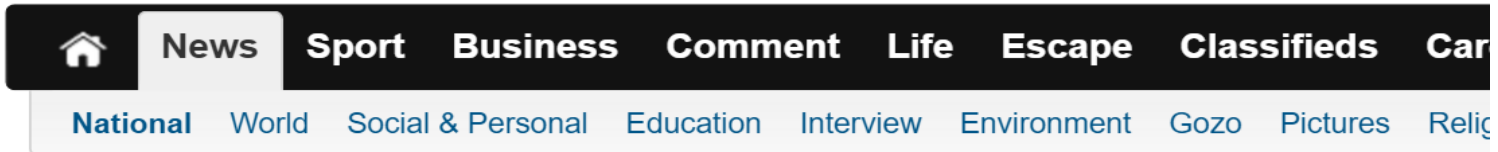
- MEPA, Wild Birds Regulation Unit, police & armed forces
- High intensity of inspections
- High penalties for infringements: fines between EUR 250 and EUR 15,000, mandatory permanent revocation / ban on hunting licenses even on first time offence involving illegal targeting of protected birds, in general revocation of license for 1-5 years, imprisonment up to 2 years, confiscation; high prosecution success / conviction rate (over 97%)
- Training of hunters – good communications





FACE

# Communication on “Zero Tolerance”...



Thursday, September 23, 2010, 19:20

## FKNK condemns killing of spoonbills

The killing of majestic spoonbills which reached Malta earlier this week was a disgrace and an act that should be despised by everyone, especially serious and law abiding hunters and trappers, the Federation for Hunting and Conservation – Malta (FKNK) said.

It said in a statement that reports of a flock of spoonbills migrating over our islands reached the Federation early this week. It also received reports that this flock had landed to rest for the night in an area close to Burmarrad.

The FKNK was then informed that poachers had managed to sneak through the guarded area and take shots at these birds, killing some





# National action on wildlife crime

- **Malta – Recognition of results**

“There was a significant decrease in the number of illegal hunting (and trapping) incidents witnessed during 2014 spring hunting season compared to previous years; the illegalities in 2014 were 29% of the number of illegalities in 2013” (BirdLife Malta - **report 2014**)

“We have never observed such few hunting violations as this season. Despite the result of the referendum on spring hunting it appears significant changes are taking place on Malta.” (Committee Against Bird Slaughter - spring **report 2015**)

**Future risk?**





# Ongoing action required!

- Greater enforcement
  - Not necessarily stricter regulations
- Revenues from hunting licenses cover costs of enforcement implementation and more
- Stronger collaboration between local communities and law enforcement bodies
  - Some hunting associations training competent authorities on IK
- Hunters are governed by self-imposed ethics and by non-legally binding codes of conduct
  - Peer pressure is effective
  - Communication is key

- **What about Albania?**





# Important Future Steps

The “*human dimension*”...

**Understanding WHY people do it!**

**Greater action on communication (where FACE is strong)**

**Work with BirdLife on new work on IK in the Med region**





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