



## Midterm review of the "Sustainable Hunting, Biodiversity & Countryside Activities" Intergroup

Strasbourg, 09.07.2008

At the last meeting prior to the summer recess of the EU-Institutions, MEPs, members of the "Sustainable Hunting, Biodiversity & Countryside" Intergroup at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, met for a "belated" midterm review of its activities and to discuss how these have had a positive affect on sustainable hunting.

After an introduction by Intergroup *President-Coordinator* Michl EBNER, a political message was given by FACE *President* Gilbert de TURCKHEIM, followed by a more factual presentation by Christine RÖDLACH, the new FACE *Director Public Affairs & Communication*, on the main elements of the work programme over the past four years.

The achievements of the Intergroup were properly recognised in the intervention by G. de TURCKHEIM, who stressed that, thanks to the support given by MEPs, many problems for hunting and biodiversity in Europe could be avoided. He underlined in particular the publication in the EU *Official Journal* that very morning of the new "Firearms" Directive, already adopted by the European Parliament in November 2007. He further emphasised the need for the *Guidance document* to the "Birds" Directive to be taken fully into account by the President of the Commission, José Manuel BARROSO as well as the importance of the 2009 elections to the European Parliament.

During the exchange of views that followed, several MEPs endorsed these statements and advocated that also in the future, this Intergroup should remain an essential element of the parliamentary processes.

"I would like to warmly thank all members and supporters of the Intergroup for their valuable assistance over the last four years. It was the contribution of each individual that has made it possible to achieve a fair balance of interests in the domain of rural issues and to develop this Intergroup into one of the most successful in the Parliament." stated M. EBNER. He expressed in particular his recognition and that of the Intergroup towards FACE for the work of its secretariat, the contributions of its President and the loyalty of its members.

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Since 1985, the **Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU** has provided the Secretariat for the "Sustainable Hunting, Biodiversity & Countryside Activities" Intergroup at the European Parliament. FACE works closely with MEPs from different political groups, who have a common interest in promoting wildlife conservation, sustainable hunting and fishing, and sustainable management of the countryside and its traditions.

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