

Intergroup
SUSTAINABLE HUNTING, BIODIVERSITY & COUNTRYSIDE ACTIVITIES
Intergroupe
CHASSE DURABLE, BIODIVERSITÉ & ACTIVITÉS RURALES
Intergruppe
NACHHALTIGE JAGD, BIODIVERSITÄT & LÄNDLICHE AKTIVITÄTEN
Intergruppo
CACCIA SOSTENIBILE, BIODIVERSITÀ & ATTIVITÀ RURALI
Intergrupo
CAZA SOSTENIBLE, BIODIVERSIDAD & ACTIVIDADES RURALES

Minutes of the meeting on 18.02.2009
The Federation of Association of Hunting and Conservation of the EU
(FACE) presents its European Parliament election Manifesto

MEP

BERLATO, Sergio (UEN, IT)	KOHLÍČEK, Jaromír (GUE/NGL, CZ)
BARTOLOZZI, Paolo (EPP-ED, It)	MATHIEU, Veronique (EPP-ED, FR)
EBNER, Michl (EPP-ED, IT)	MAURO, Mario (EPP-ED, IT)
GLATTFELDER, Béla (EPP-ED, HU)	STURDY, Robert (EPP-ED, UK)
GOUDIN, Hélène (IND/DEM, SW)	RÜBIG, Paul (EPP-ED, AU)
De GRANDE, Luis (EPP-ED, ES)	SCHIERHUBER, Anges (EPP-ED, AU)
HELMER, Roger (NI, UK)	
JEGGLE, Elisabeth (EPP-ED, DE)	

Experts / Observers

BANA, Giovanni (FACE Italy)	DELEFOSSE, Thierry (Hunting Press)
BALLESTEROS, Santiago (RFEC)	HOEJSGAARD, Martin (Nordic Hunters Coop)
BATALLA, Pasqual (APAVAL)	HOGGARTH, Tim (FACE UK)
BAYARRI, Miguel A (APAVAL)	LECOCQ, Yves (FACE)
BUTEL, YVES (FNC)	MIDDLETON, Angus (FACE)
BOSTEELS, Jean-Louis (FACE Belgium)	De TURCKHEIM, Gilbert (FACE)
CARETTA, Maria Christina (CONFAVI)	SAVAGE, Kathryn (Intern)

Assistants

ENTZMINGER, Catherine (V. MATHIEU)
FORSTNER, D. (A. SCHIERHUBER)
FERRARI, Laure (Godrey BLOOM)
IFLAND, Katharina (M. EBNER)
JOHNSON, Jennifer (Peter ŠTASTNÝ)

Secretariat

de ROUBAIX, Adrian (FACE)	De NEEÛS, Arno (Stagiaire, ELO)
LAWRENCE, Timothy (FACE)	RÖDLACH, Christine (FACE)
	SVALBY, Johan (FACE)

1. Introduction and opening remarks

Michl EBNER, *President Co-ordinator* of the Intergroup, opens the meeting and welcomes all present and represented MEPs, as well as invited speakers, FACE President, Gilbert de TURCKHEIM, and FACE CEO & Director of Conservation, Angus MIDDLETON, as well as the other experts and guests. Before the meeting gets underway, he adds a word of congratulations for the passing yesterday of the Seals Report in the EP “Agriculture” Committee (AGRI), as the *Rapporteur* comes from the IG. Another vote in the EP “International Trade” Committee (INTA) took place 15 days ago which he comments that there had not been an opportunity to examine its outcome until now. The interests which the members of the IG defend have been included in the various proposals, in cooperation with FACE, and they have joined in with their drafting. In this regard, he wishes to thank FACE for its cooperation in tackling this issue here within the EP. Although there has been no majority opinion expressed with the IG, legitimate interests have been heard and he reiterates his congratulations to V. MATHIEU for the result obtained yesterday. He then appeals to the IG Members who are members of the “Internal Market and Consumer Protection” Committee (IMCO) to ensure that they turn out for the vote on 2 March and for other members of the IG to directly inform the Members of the Committee from their political group an “attitude” that meets the expectations of the IG. This is all he wishes to express as his word of welcome.

As a further word of introduction, M EBNER expresses how this Manifesto is a significant document in that it makes a positive contribution by FACE prior to the EP elections. He thanks the FACE President and the whole staff personally. He then gives the floor to FACE President, G. de TURCKHEIM.

2. The FACE presents its EP election Manifesto

Mr G. de TURCKHEIM opens by stating the upcoming EP elections for the world of hunting are very important because the EP has a big impact on the future of hunting. He argues that they promote a modern approach to sustainable hunting, which respects the other users of nature and is respectful to animals. This hunting remains sustainable because it is practised with a constant care for the biodiversity conservation and the safeguarding of the habitats. He sees that hunting should also be a plus for rural economies and a platform for human interaction to better understand rural problems. He argues that for these reasons, the FACE Manifesto tries to make aware for MEPs the priorities of hunters, going well beyond just the mere framework of hunting but well into rural areas. He then outlines the main arguments in the Manifesto. He begins by raising the need for a balance for the future, where expectations of a modern society will always place certain demands or priorities on the environment. Economic priorities should not discard human or environmental problems. There is a need to integrate sustainable use of natural resources, human and political necessities in the environment. The next point he raises is the need for management for biodiversity. He repeats that high quality hunting respects biodiversity - through human and financial contributions, hunters agree to the importance of preserving nature and therefore biodiversity. He says, “we wish that the contribution made by hunters as organisations for the protection of nature be recognised. Finally he maintains that hunters show respect for wildlife. As it is difficult to define what is meant by welfare, he asks decision-makers to remove emotion and perception from their view of what wildlife is.

In his intervention, FACE CEO and Director of Conservation, A. MIDDLETON, points to the ever growing debate on climate change and biodiversity loss as a major issue for the next parliament. After a brief introduction of himself, since this is the first occasion he had to speak to the IG since taking over as CEO of FACE, he thanks the MEPs for this opportunity to present some ideas of where FACE is and what FACE sees as important for the next Parliament. He expresses to the audience that he finds this whole process of interaction through the IG process to be not only transparent but vital, stressing the importance of its survival. It is clear to him that the EU target to halt biodiversity loss by 2010 will not be met and that efforts must be to begin looking at a vision for 2020. This will have to be based on balancing all the components of conservation - protection, regeneration, use, eradication to name a few. He points out that if it were not for hunters, who

maintain an excess of 30% of EU landscapes, Natura2000 sites risk becoming small islands surrounded by green biodiversity deserts. "Biodiversity will have to have a value and that hunters generally know this as they remain resilient spenders for nature and conservation". He concludes by saying that hunters, as important rural stakeholders, are already doing much of the conservation and they so also need to be part of the conversation in order that their efforts are recognised.

M. EBNER thanks A. MIDDLETON for conveying a message in terms of passion. He suggests that perhaps the problems facing conservation after the election will be the same as those before the election then opens the floor to questions and comments

G. BANA, FACE Italy President, starts the debate by thanking the IG for the significant work it has done but adds that "we've been working with a good system". He feels that at the EP, rural life has a really important role to play, which is why as a hunting association, he is happy to work with farmers and all people who love nature. He insists that hunting is one part of nature and the EP can work with hunters in its preservation. French MEP V. MATHIEU begins by thanking M. EBNER for all the work has had carried out for hunting. She also wishes to thank FACE for the support the Secretariat has proved the MEPs with their dossiers and reports, especially for her as *Rapporteur*. She stressed the importance of solidarity among the hunting community - an aspect in France that has helped her - whose support is helpful for MEPs as it is quite reassuring for them to do something for hunting. She then reminds those in attendance that there is the vote in the IMCO Committee and that they should follow up the victory that occurred in the AGRI Committee.

M. EBNER thanks V. MATHIEU, but reminds all that the work in the IG was significant but it would not have had this success if it had not been for the support within the IG. At this moment, he announces that he will not stand as a MEP candidate in June but will try to be useful for "our cause".

Next to speak was P. BATALLA, President of APAVAL, who also thanks the IG and FACE for its work in doing something in Europe that brings together all regions and traditions. For him, it is through the regions where farmers, especially in Spain, and the rural world connects with traditional hunting. It is these people who should defend this rural cultural that makes up Europe. For this, he welcomes the FACE Manifesto. M. EBNER thanks him for his comments and adds that the debate can only continue until 11:30. MEP A. SCHIERHUBER takes the floor, thanking the IG President Coordinator and announces that she too will not stand for re-election. She is followed by MEP R. STURDY who adds his well wishes for M. EBNER, saying that he has been a tower of strength in the IG. FACE has been very helpful in supporting the hunting community and the IG. Things are involving and hunters are more and more recognises for their role as they are the ones in direct contact with nature.

In his concluding remarks, M. EBNER announced the last IG meeting for this term on Hunting and Culture which will be held on the 22 April. The Sustainable Hunting IG is the one IG that has the most cohesion and most members.

He is followed by G. de TURCKHEIM, who concludes that the next IG should gather all difference political groups and the first rule should remain cooperation. He thanks M. EBNER again, saying he was the perfect President Coordinator as he was always able to find agreement.

Any other business

No other issues are raised.

4. Next meeting

The next meeting of the "Sustainable Hunting" IG is scheduled for 22 April, 2009 in Strasbourg. M. EBNER thank all guests and participants, then ends the meeting.

Timothy LAWRENCE
IG Secretariat