

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

Meeting of 16.11.2005

Jubilee session

MEPs

BACO, Peter (NA, Sk)	KELEMEN, Attila (Observer EPP-ED, Ru)
BATTEN, Gerard (IND/DEM, Uk)	KLAß, Christa (EPP-ED, De)
BERLATO, Sergio (UEN, It)	LEHTINEN, Lasse (PSE, Fin)
BLOOM, Godfrey (IND/DEM, Uk)	MATHIEU, Véronique (EPP-ED, Fr)
BRAGHETTO, Iles (EPP-ED, It)	MAYER, Hans-Peter (EPP-ED, De)
CAPOULAS SANTOS, Louis (PSE, Pt)	NIEBLER, Angelika (EPP-ED, De)
DESS, Albert (EPP-ED, De)	PEK, Bodgan (IND/DEM, Pl)
DÍAZ de MERA, Agustín (EPP-ED, Es)	PIEPER, Markus (EPP-ED, De)
EBNER, Michl (EPP-ED, It)	PIOTROWSKI, Mirosław (IND/DEM, Pl)
EK, Lena (ALDE, Sw)	RADWAN, Alexander (EPP-ED, De)
FARAGE, Nigel (IND/DEM, Uk)	ROGALSKI, Bogusław (IND/DEM, Pl)
FLORENZ, Karl-Heinz (EPP-ED, DE)	RÜBIG, Paul (EPP-ED, At)
GLATFELDER, Béla (EPP-ED, Hu)	SAVARY, Gilles (PSE, Fr)
GOEPEL, Lutz (EPP-ED, De)	SCHIERHUBER, Agnes (EPP-ED, At)
GOUDIN, Hélène (IND/DEM, Sw)	SOMMER, Renate (EPP-ED, De)
GRABOWSKI, Dariusz (IND/DEM, Pl)	STURDY, Robert (EPP-ED, UK)
HELMER, Roger (NA, UK)	ZALESKI, Zbigniew (EPP-ED, Pl)
HOPPENSTEDT, Friedrich (EPP-ED, De)	ZAPALOWSKI, Andrzej (IND/DEM, Pl)
JEGGLE, Elisabeth (EPP-ED, De)	von WOGAU, Karl (EPP-ED, De)

Former MEPs

ALBER, Siegbert (former EPP-ED, De)	REMACLE, Marcel (former PSE, Be)
-------------------------------------	----------------------------------

Guests

DIMAS, Stavros (EU Environment Commissioner)	MALLIMACI, Salvatore (Consul General It)
KOSTOPOULOS, Konstantin (Cabinet Dimas)	LONARDO, Pietro (Ambassador It)
QUINN, Martijn (Cabinet Dimas)	SILESI, Joseph (It)

Apologised

FRATTINI, Franco (Vice-President Commission)	von HABSBURG, Otto (former EPP-ED, De)
WALLSTRÖM, Margot (Vice-President Commission)	SCHENK Graf v. STAUFFENBERG, Franz-Ludwig (former EPP-ED, De)
AYUSO GONZALEZ, M. Pilar (EPP-ED, Es)	WIJSENBECK, Florus (former ALDE, NI & former Præsident of the Intergroup)
de GRANDES PASCUAL, L.(EPP-ED, Es)	PONCELET, Christian (President of the French Senat)
LULLING, Astrid (EPP-ED, Lux)	
McMILLAN-SCOTT, Edward (EPP-ED, UK)	

Experts / Observers

BANA, Giovanni (FACE It)
BERNARD, Jorge (RFEC)
BOSTEELS, Jean-Louis (FACE Be)
CROFTON, Des (FACE Ir)
CARETTA, Maria Christina (CONFAVI)
DULAC, Philippe (Fr)
de l'ESCAILLE, Thierry (ELO)
GARDINER, John (FACE Uk)
GIRARD, Ronan (ELO)
GRAHN, Anders (FACE Sw)
Baron HEEREMAN, Constantin (FACE De, DJV)
HOGGARTH, Tim (FACE Uk)

Assistants

KOCH, Christoph (E. JEGGLE)
MATYSIAK, Marcin (B. PEK)

Secretariat

ESPARRAGO, Manuel (FACE)
LECOCQ, Yves (FACE)

HOJSGAARD, Martin (FACE Dk)
KLOUCEK, Rainhard (Paneuropa, At)
KRÖGEL, Werner (Advisor EPP-ED)
LEBERSORGER, Peter (FACE At)
MARRACCI, Massimo (FACE It, AECT)
SCHUMANN, Erich (De)
SIROWATKA, Karl (FACE At)
SWIFT, John (FACE Uk, BASC)
TORESSON, Bo (FACE Se)
de TURCKHEIM, Gilbert (FACE)
UNDERBERG-RUDER, Hubertine (De)
von WÜLFING, Goddert (FACE De, DJV)

MICH, Paola (M. EBNER)

von STEYNITZ, Max (FACE)

1. Opening remarks and introduction

M. EBNER, President-Coordinator of the Intergroup, opens the meeting and welcomes all MEPs present, as well as invited speakers, experts and guests. He reads the list of apologised guests and he transmits the greetings from Lady SCOTT-HOPKINS, the widow of the late co-founder and former President of the Intergroup, Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS.

2. The 20th anniversary

I. FRIEDRICH, Vice-president of the EP and himself one of the founding Members of the Intergroup, transmits a congratulation message from the E.P. President, J. BORRELL, which states that the extraordinary work of the Intergroup benefits all EU citizens. I. FRIEDRICH underlines that the “Hunting” Intergroup is one of the most important, best known and most active in the EP, promoting sustainable use and management, as well as the socio-economic significance of hunting in the E.U. It is precisely because nature conservation plays such a major role for the European hunters that they have done already so much for the protection of the countryside.

M. EBNER presents the history and background of the Intergroup, thanking all persons and bodies having contributed to its success and its message of “biodiversity through wise use”. He hopes that the Intergroup will continue its activities in a constructive spirit of dialogue with all sectors and stakeholders. M. EBNER expresses his gratitude to all founders of the Intergroup, members, FACE and representatives of other institutions and associations for the extremely good and constructive collaboration during the last 20 years.

In his intervention, Commissioner DIMAS strongly endorses the objectives of the Intergroup, underling the role of sustainable hunting for the conservation of biodiversity, also *inside* the NATURA 2000 network. He stresses the importance of the successful *Sustainable Hunting Initiative*, launched by the Commission to improve dialogue and understanding between hunters and other conservationists, which resulted in 2004 in the signing by FACE and *BirdLife International* of the *Agreement* on the “Birds” Directive. He further refers to a new project, financed by D.G.ENV, under which “hunting ambassadors” will raise awareness for NATURA 2000 and hunting, as well as to a European conference scheduled for next spring on hunting bag statistics in the E.U. His final statement that “sustainable hunting is part of the solution and not part of the problem” finds wide approval among all participants.

FACE President G. de TURCKHEIM points out that European hunters have always been represented in the EP and he thanks MEPs for the very good co-operation and their trust, which has been clearly strengthened by A. ZARGES’ initiative of founding this Intergroup, 20 years ago. This Intergroup has become a platform for representatives of all political groups who have a heart for nature as a habitat for man and animal – also when many of these MEPs are no hunters or fishers themselves. He particularly thanks M. EBNER for his commitment to preserve hunting. As a token for remembrance of this special day, he presents a silver pin, produced by FACE, first to M. EBNER and afterwards to all Intergroup members.

P. LEBERSORGER, S.G. of the Austrian Hunters' Federation, introduces M. EBNER's new book *Sustainable Hunting*, outlining the 20 years of activities of the Intergroup (available in German, but soon also in Italian and English).

3. Adoption of the Draft Resolution at the occasion of the 20th anniversary

During the meeting, the Intergroup Members unanimously adopt a *Resolution* advocating a proper distinction of competences between the EU and its Member States in hunting matters (see text attached).

4. Distinction of FACE President G. de TURCKHEIM

M. EBNER gives the floor to Italian Consul General S. MALLIMACI, who, on behalf of the Italian Republic, thanks G. de TURCKHEIM for his great commitment in the protection of environment and nature conservation, as well as for hunting in Europe, particularly in Italy and France. Therefore, he decorates him with the "Star of the Order of Solidarity".

G. de TURCKHEIM expresses his gratitude and believes that he has obtained this award thanks to the support and assistance of his colleagues. Only in a strong team can such success be achieved.

5. Any other business

No issues are raised under this agenda item.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **14th December** (15.30 – 16.30h, Room SDM S 3).

Manuel ESPARRAGO
Max von STEYNITZ

RESOLUTION

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Intergroup “*Sustainable Hunting, Biodiversity and Countryside Activities*”, Members of the European Parliament, member of this Intergroup, emphasise the need for a strategic network of all sustainable users of nature in Europe. Wise and sustainable use of wildlife and its habitats by hunting is an essential feature of the proper management of the countryside. This should therefore be taken into account in all relevant policy areas of the EU and its Member States.

Members of the Intergroup therefore support the establishment of similar Parliamentary groups in the Parliaments of each of the EU Member States. This is especially important as under the subsidiarity principle the EU has limited competence to regulate hunting and so therefore this field remains mainly at Member State level.

There are more than 7 million hunters in the EU. Their contribution to nature conservation and biodiversity is significant. Their management of over 3 million square kilometers also represents a highly considerable social and economic benefit. These factors need to be communicated widely. The Intergroup “*Sustainable Hunting, Biodiversity and Countryside Activities*” will make this communication its immediate priority for the future.

Strasbourg, 16th November 2005