



## The FACE Manifesto is presented to the “Sustainable Hunting, Biodiversity & Countryside Activities” Intergroup

Brussels, 18.02.2009

As a precursor to the European Parliament elections in June 2009, the “Sustainable Hunting, Biodiversity & Countryside Activities” Intergroup focused on the publication by the **Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE)** of its *Manifesto*. In this document, FACE outlined a number of political considerations that potential and returning Members of European Parliament (MEPs) should consider in respect to not only sustainable hunting but also the future of Europe’s natural and cultural heritage.

Intergroup *President-Coordinator*, Michl EBNER, welcomed the guest speakers, FACE CEO and Director of Conservation, Angus MIDDLETON, who spoke on the political implications to Europe’s natural heritage, and FACE President, Gilbert de TURCKHEIM, who presented the FACE Manifesto. Prior to turning the floor over to the speakers, Dr. EBNER stressed the important function that the Intergroup plays within the European Parliament and underlined his hopes that when the Parliament resumes, that it will continue to provide the linkage between civil society and decision-makers.

In his intervention, FACE CEO and Director of Conservation, Angus MIDDLETON, pointed to the ever growing debate on climate change and biodiversity loss as a major issue for the next parliament. He concluded that hunters as important rural stakeholders are already doing much of the conservation and so also need to be part of the conversation in order that their efforts are recognised.

On behalf of the 36 FACE Member Associations, FACE President, Gilbert de TURCKHEIM, presented to the many MEPs in attendance the FACE Election Manifesto, stating that “we 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”. Mr de TURCKHEIM concluded by wishing those MEPs who seek re-election the best of luck and looks forward to their support of the “Sustainable Hunting” Intergroup for 2009-2014.

The main message to emerge from those in attendance was the importance for the Intergroup after the elections to continue to promote cooperation and solidarity for the defence of our common passion for one of the most natural rural activity.

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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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