



Intergroup for Sustainable Hunting, Biodiversity, Rural Activities and Forestry



Intergroupe Chasse Durable, Biodiversité, Activités Rurales et Forêts



Intergruppe Nachhaltige Jagd, Biodiversität, ländliche Aktivitäten und Wald



Why an Intergroup?



EP Intergroups gather MEPs from different Political Groups and stakeholders, sharing a common interest in a particular subject. The "Sustainable Hunting" Intergroup, created in 1985, is one of the oldest and most active in the EP. For the 2009 - 2014 term of the EP, the Intergroup has the support of some 150 MEPs. The Intergroup bears now the official name "Sustainable Hunting, Biodiversity, Countryside Activities & Forestry", which reflects better its conservation goals, and the clear interaction between sustainable management of territories and the enhancement of wildlife and biodiversity, while promoting a thriving countryside.

The objectives of the Intergroup are to:

- PROMOTE the role of hunting and other forms of sustainable use of wild species contributing to biodiversity enhancement and rural development
- DISCUSS current issues related to wildlife management & rural development on the agenda of the European Parliament (EP)
- SECURE the interests of 7 million hunters, as well as land-managers & other countryside stakeholders, thereby contributing to the strengthening of the democratic legitimacy of the EP.
- INITIATE helpful discussions in the EP on national/regional issues relating to biodiversity & the countryside, and enable a fruitful exchange of experience
- REAFFIRM the importance of hunting as an activity with significant socio-economic impact in the EU (total turnover 8 billion/annum & 120,000 full-time jobs)
- ENSURE access to reliable databases on wildlife management and conservation & countryside activities.

Activities



The Intergroup deals with issues for which the EP is competent and which relate to hunting, wildlife management, angling, forestry, agriculture, biodiversity and nature conservation, taking into account public and wildlife health and welfare aspects. Also addressed on a regular basis are cross cutting issues which have an impact on socio economic activities in rural areas. 2010 will be the international year of biodiversity and the EC Communication on Biodiversity will set new targets to enhance and restore biodiversity in Europe.

The key stakeholders who will be implementing these new policies are hunters and landowners who collaborate to manage in excess of 65 % of rural areas for conservation. These actors, landowners in particular, are therefore also the main providers of public environmental services. Meetings take place during Plenary Sessions of the EP in Strasbourg. The Intergroup may, by consensus, decide to adopt a position, statement, declaration, resolution or recommendation or to take any other initiative that seems appropriate.

Organisation



The Intergroup is composed of MEPs promoting wildlife conservation, sustainable hunting & fishing, sustainable management of the countryside and cultural heritage. The diversity of the Intergroup membership demonstrates the importance of these topics for a large range of Member States, political parties and citizens.

Bureau

A Bureau composed of one President and a number of Vice-Presidents meets regularly on the President's request in order to prepare the annual programme, deal with urgent issues and appoint the chair of the next meeting.

President : Véronique MATHIEU (EPP-ED, FR)
Co-President: Robert STURDY (ECR, UK)
General Secretary: Markus PIEPER (EPP, DE)
Vice-Presidents: Sergio BERLATO (EPP, IT), Luis Manuel CAPOULAS SANTOS (S&D, PT), William The Earl of DARTMOUTH, (EFD, UK), Lena EK (ALDE, SE), Ioan ENCIU (S&D, RO), Béla GLATTFELDER (EPP, HU), Elisabeth KÖSTINGER (EPP, AT)

Support



FACE (Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the E.U.) hosts the Secretariat of the Intergroup which is run in conjunction with ELO (European Landowners Organisation) for cross cutting issues on Agriculture and Forestry:
Rue F. Pelletier 82, B-1030 Brussels, Tel: +32 2 732 69 00, Fax: +32 2 732 70 72, intergroup@face.eu - www.face.eu

FACE acts in the interest of over 7,000,000 European hunters in 36 European countries, promotes hunting in accordance with the principle of wise and sustainable use of natural resources. Its objectives are the conservation and management of wildlife, the protection, creation and restoration of habitats, and the use of biodiversity as a tool for rural development.

ELO provides support to the Intergroup Hunting, Biodiversity, Countryside Activities & Forestry. ELO is a unique federation of 67 national associations across the EU27 which represents the interests of landowners, land managers and rural entrepreneurs at the European political level. ELO is the only organisation able to stand for all rural entrepreneurs. Its purpose is to promote a dynamic, prosperous and sustainable countryside based on high environmental standards, economic viability and social fabric: nature@elo.org - www.elo.org

Both organisations are partners of the IUCN Countdown 2010 initiative

Both organisations are supported by the EC Directorate General Environment under the LIFE + programme Operating Grant

