



European Federation for Hunting and Conservation

Conflicts between large carnivores and hunting activities

Italy, Venzone, 13 Oktober 2017

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I. FACE: facts & figures



- International non-profit NGO established in 1977
- Largest democratically representative body for hunters in the world
- FACE membership: national hunting associations within 36 states of the Council of Europe, including the EU28
- FACE Members represents 7 Million European hunters
- Addressing political and environmental challenges to create the best possible context for hunting
- Liaising with science community and promoting research

I. FACE: work areas



- Migratory birds
- Large carnivores
- Biodiversity, agriculture and land use
- International agreements
- Animal welfare and health
- Firearms and ammunition
- Hunting methods and culture

I. FACE and the EU



- European Parliament
- FACE is the co-secretariat of the European Parliament Intergroup “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside”
- European Commission
 - Agriculture
 - Environment/Nature policy
 - Animal Health
- Council of Europe
- Committee of the Regions



Sustainable hunting, biodiversity, countryside activities & forestry Intergroup
Intergroupe Chasse durable, biodiversité, activités rurales & forêt
Die Intergruppe zur Nachhaltigen Jagd, Biodiversität, Ländliche Aktivitäten & Wald

II. Policy Framework



- Habitats directive:
 - Art. 2 maintain or restore favourable conservation status.
 - Art. 2.3 - economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics
 - Art. 12/14 Annex IV vs. V
 - Art. 16 derogations
 - No other satisfactory solution
 - No detrimental effect on population
 - Solid argumentation for reasons (e.g. public health)
 - Flexibility vital for successful management
- Transnational conservation (Alpine convention)
- **Large carnivore management: success story across EU!**

II. Policy: what we do



- Action Plan for Nature, People and Economy
 - Fitness check: Directives fit for purpose, focus on implementation!
 - Updating guidance on species protection rules under the Habitats Directive
 - Support for stakeholder platform conflict species
- EP Intergroup conference (17-10) “Coexisting with large carnivores”
 - Discussing challenges and solutions

III. Hunters and large carnivores



- Hunters are important stakeholders in large carnivores' conservation and management:
 - Create acceptance and lessons: illegal killing: Finland, Austria, Norway
 - Local knowledge vital for conservation
 - Hunters instrumental in combatting poaching and illegal wildlife trade
- The most severe challenges are in countries/regions where large carnivores have previously been disappeared
- Survey sent out to:
 - Italy, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Croatia, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Czechia.

III. Hunters and large carnivores



- Acceptance:
 - Unaccepted
 - Slightly unaccepted Switzerland, Austria
 - Neutral Germany,
 - Slightly accepted Italy, France
 - Perfectly accepted
- Most accepted: Bear
- Least accepted: Wolf and Lynx

III. Hunters and large carnivores



- Conflicts reported by hunters:
 - Killing of game species (local) and disturbance of ungulates
 - Large carnivores are viewed as competition
 - Chamois, red deer and roe deer are most affected
 - Creates dangerous situation, for example in driven hunts
 - Impact on agriculture
 - Hunters and farmers are intertwined
- However, hunters also see carnivores as part of their environment
 - Hunters can play an important part in education

IV. Conclusions



- multi-stakeholder approach and to secure the participation of land owners and land managers and other key stakeholders
 - See outcomes last regional meeting (Romania)
- Hunters now are not always included in management plans and they are not satisfied with the plans
- Involving stakeholders in monitoring, this works both ways
- Creating acceptance through communication alone is not enough
 - Conversation \neq conservation, local action is needed
- Apply flexibility and adjust to local needs

Questions/remarks





Thank you for you time!

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